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# Saipan Tribune

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## OPINION METER

**This week's poll:**  
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streets useful or not?

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## INSIDE

### Serial Killer

A pregnant soldier lay dead in the bathtub. Scrawled on the motel-room mirror in lipstick was a crosshair design.

**NATION...Page 16**



### State of Emergency

The president has declared a four-day state of emergency in Mongolia's capital.

**ASIA...Page 17**



### Summer Bash

Palms Resort Saipan hosted a summer bash party for the community, drawing hundreds of people to the resort.

**LIFE & STYLE...Page 19**

Houseworker among those missing in capsized RP ferry. **PAGE 2**

NMI car sales jump by 53 percent in June. **PAGE 5**

## Pentagon to unveil new waiver process for Army recruits

By **LOLITA C. BALDOR**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Pentagon

has revised its policy for recruits who must get waivers for past bad behavior, but officials stopped short of eliminating waiver requirements for petty crimes,

The Associated Press has learned.

After a lengthy review, the Defense Department bowed to insistence from the services that they be allowed to set their

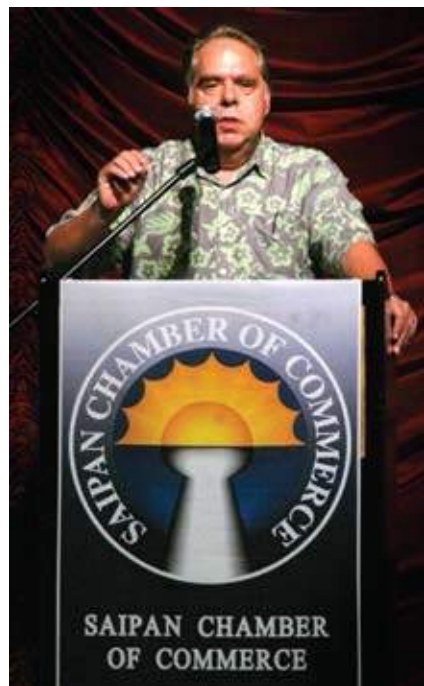
own guidelines for what offenses trigger a waiver. Instead, officials say the Pentagon will unveil a policy Wednesday that

See **PENTAGON** on Page 4

## AS BUSINESSES COMPETE FOR LIMITED WORKER SLOTS

# 'Big projects will get priority'

By **STEFAN SEBASTIAN**  
stefan\_sebastian@saipantribune.com  
BUSINESS EDITOR



Labor director Barry Hirsbein answer questions about the pre-transition period during yesterday's Saipan Chamber of Commerce general membership meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Sandcastle.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

## Businesses eye wind energy

By **STEFAN SEBASTIAN**  
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BUSINESS EDITOR

With a recent spike in electricity rates forcing scores of small businesses in the Commonwealth to cut costs in order to survive, many are eyeing wind energy as a potential solution and zoning officials are poised to present a series of new reg-

See **BUSINESSES** on Page 4

The federal cap on the number of foreigners labor officials can permit to

work in the Commonwealth after the passage of legislation federalizing local immigration laws has yet to be reached, according to Division of Labor chief Barry

Hirshbein, but regulators must still give many available openings to key development projects to spur economic growth.

See **BIG** on Page 4



## MPLT funds soar to \$77M in FY07

By **AGNES E. DONATO**  
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REPORTER

An independent audit has shown a significant growth in the Marianas Public

Land Trust's financial standing during the 2007 fiscal year.

The audit, done by the Deloitte accounting firm, revealed MPLT's total as-

See **MPLT** on Page 4

### NARITA VISITORS

Juanet Villagomez of the Inatuas Cultural Dancers offers a shell lei to passengers disembarking from the Northwest Airlines flight from Tokyo's Narita Airport early yesterday morning inside the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



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Local

Houseworker among those missing in capsized RP ferry

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

One of the hundreds missing from a ferry that capsized June 22 in the Philippines is a long-time Filipino houseworker of a Commonwealth Utilities Corp. officer and her family.

CUC's budget and fiscal officer Betty Terlaje confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Editha Ybanez was among those declared missing.

Terlaje said Ybanez has been with her family for 11 years now.

"This is really hard for me to talk about it. She's like a family. She's definitely a family member. She is a very kindhearted woman," she said.

Terlaje said Ybanez took care of her two children—ages seven and two—like her own. "She's very bonded with my kids. She's more than a babysitter. She's like their mom when I'm

away from home," the CUC official said.

"The tragedy has been really hard for my whole family. My whole family was in big shock. Everybody came together and we're offering Mass for her," Terlaje said.

Ybanez left June 17 for a vacation in her hometown in Surigao, located in the southern part of the Philippines. She was supposed to come back July 18.

Terlaje said Ybanez first re-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Editha Ybanez is shown here at the Obyan Beach.

turned to the Philippines in the mid-'90s when her [Terlaje's] grandmother passed away. At that time, Ybanez stayed for five to six years. Terlaje said when she moved

here from the U.S. mainland and started her own family, she contacted Ybanez in the Philippines to help her with her children.

Ybanez happily accepted her offer. She arrived on Saipan in January 2004. Her June trip was supposed to be her first vacation in the Philippines after four years.

"I must say that she, just like many other houseworkers, has made our lives easier. My husband and I are forever grateful for her sacrifice being away from her home and her family and most especially for the love and care she unconditionally gave our children and our whole family," said Terlaje.

She learned about the accident only last Sunday afternoon when Ybanez's cousin here informed the family.

Terlaje said they learned that Ybanez was supposed to ride a plane, but apparently her cousin purchased ferry tickets for both of them.

The cousin, who survived, stated they both jumped from the ferry. Ybanez reportedly hit her back on the steel railings.

Terlaje said the Ybanez's family had contacted her if she has any fingerprints of Ybanez on file to assist them in identifying her remains because many of the bodies recovered were already decomposing.

Terlaje said she found a police clearance of Ybanez issued by the Pasig City police containing her fingerprints. She said she sent the document to the Philippines on Tuesday.

"We're hoping at this point that that would help the situation," she added.

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CNMI Government

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/s/ IGNACIO DELA CRUZ, D.V.M.  
Secretary, DLNR

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
Director, P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Department of Public Health  
Division of Public Health

ANNOUNCEMENT

WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines 2008-2009

On April 8, 2008, a Notice announcing revised WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines was published in the Federal Register. The adjusted income eligibility guidelines are used by State agencies in determining the income eligibility of persons applying to participate in the WIC Program. WIC State agencies must implement the new guidelines on July 1, 2008.

To be eligible on the basis of income, applicants' gross income (i.e. before taxes are withheld) must fall at or below 185 percent of the U.S. Poverty Income Guidelines. The guidelines for WIC are shown below.

**WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines**  
**(Effective from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009)**

**48 Contiguous States, D.C., Guam and Territories**

	Annual	Monthly	Twice-Monthly	Bi-Weekly	Weekly
1	19,240	1,604	802	740	370
2	25,900	2,159	1,080	997	499
3	32,560	2,714	1,357	1,253	627
4	39,220	3,269	1,635	1,509	755
5	45,880	3,824	1,912	1,765	883
6	52,540	4,379	2,190	2,021	1,011
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8	65,860	5,489	2,745	2,534	1,267
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A person or certain family members who participate in other benefits programs such as the Food Stamp Program or Medicaid automatically meet the income eligibility requirement.

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Joseph Kevin P. Villagomez  
Secretary of the Department of Public Health

Josephine K. Tudela  
Director, CNMI WIC Program

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Attorney for Plaintiff  
WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN, INC.

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN INC.,  
Plaintiff,

v.  
JOAN M. SABLAN,  
Defendant.

CIVIL CASE  
NO. 08-0154

**SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT: JOAN M. SABLAN

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within thirty (30) days after the service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Law Offices of Danilo T. Aguilar, whose address is P.O. Box 505301, First Floor San Jose Court Bldg., Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way, San Jose, Saipan MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Court at the Guma Hustisia, Susupe, Saipan MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of the Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment of default may be taken against you for the relief in the complaint.

By order of this Court.

/s/ Clerk of Courts  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Dated this 11th day of June, 2008.



# Insurance scam suspect figured in 'dubious' mishap

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Serafin Amog Esperancilla, an auto shop employee who was among five people charged for involvement in a car insurance scam, also figured in a "questionable" vehicular accident seven years ago that ended up with him and a businessman being awarded \$120,000 in damages.

The case has been dragging in court as Royal Crown Insurance Corp., which smelled something fishy from the start, appealed to the CNMI Supreme Court. The case is still pending in the High Court.

According to court documents, Esperancilla, alias Raffy, got into a vehicular accident while entering the compound of Jen-Marz Auto Shop in As Terlaje in the evening of Jan. 5, 2001.

A police officer stated in his incident report that Esperancilla, the driver of a Mazda pickup truck, had told him that he struck a Subaru four-door sedan parked by the entrance of Jen-Marz.

Esperancilla reportedly told the officer that he was heading down As Terlaje Hill, then stopped and made a left turn to the entrance of Jen-Marz.

As he was making the turn, he noticed that a vehicle heading up the hill behind him was coming too fast so he accelerated to avoid an accident.

Esperancilla explained that as he cleared the highway, he struck the Subaru car that was parked by the entrance of the shop.

The officer said no information was obtained from the Subaru car since that vehicle was parked.

Both vehicles sustained moderate damage to the front.

The owner of Subaru car was Jen-Marz owner Bernardo A. Hiponia. At the time, Esperancilla was Hiponia's employee.

Esperancilla filed an insurance claim against Royal Crown on Jan. 25, 2001. The following day, Hiponia, also filed the same claim against Royal Crown.

The lowest damage estimate for Hiponia's car was \$2,841.76,

made by Jen-Marz, which also estimated the damage to Esperancilla's vehicle at \$3,483.65.

Royal Crown requested an independent estimate from another auto shop, which estimated the damage to Hiponia's and Esperancilla's cars at \$1,514 and \$2,009 respectively. The amount covered by the insurance policy was \$2,150 or \$500 less each.

Royal Crown rejected the insurance claim after their own investigation uncovered some irregularities in the accident.

Royal Crown discovered, among other things, that the traffic crash report and the claimants' written statement do not jive; the damaged portions to both vehicles do not support a head-on collision; and the questionable impact of damage to vehicles on a secondary road with a zero speed.

The denial prompted Esperancilla and Hiponia to sue Royal Crown.

In March 2005, a Superior Court jury found Royal Crown liable to pay over \$120,000 in damages to Esperancilla and Hiponia. The jurors awarded the two \$85,000 in punitive damages, \$25,000 for an unfair settlement, plus other amounts for various violations.

Then Superior Court associate judge Juan T. Lizama later reduced the award from \$120,000 to \$106,000.

The bulk of the monetary award goes to the lawyers for attorneys' fees in the amount \$57,900.18. Lawyers Eric D. Bozman and David Banes represented them in the case.

Royal Crown's investigation showed that Hiponia had alleged that he was on the way out of the compound when he remembered that he forgot something from the house.

He allegedly parked his car almost in the middle of the roadway and with the engine running and returned to his house. When Hiponia returned to his car, it was already damaged by Esperancilla's car.

Royal Crown said Hiponia could not understand why Esperancilla was going to the shop when it was already closed.

Esperancilla, on the other hand, stated in the accident

report he was in a hurry to go back to the shop when he hit Hiponia's parked car. He allegedly tried to avoid an incoming car but, in doing so, hit the parked car.

Ironically, Royal Crown said, Esperancilla could not identify the car he was trying to avoid.

The insurance firm noted that if Esperancilla hit Hiponia's car accidentally, the damage to Hiponia's car should have been on the left front portion and not on the right front side.

Attorney General's Office recently charged Esperancilla, Sgt. Hillary Tagabuel, and Yu Jai Feng "Lili" Cepeda, with conspiracy to commit theft by deception. In addition, Esperancilla and Cepe-

da were charged with theft by deception. Tagabuel, Esperancilla, and Cepeda pleaded not guilty.

In a separate case, the AGO charged Xi Mao Zheng, alias Amao, 42, and Yuan Fu Li, 28, both of Shun Fa Auto Shop, for theft, theft by deception, and conspiracy.

Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman yesterday dismissed the case against Li after the AGO moved to drop the charges against him.

Wiseman, however, found probable cause to warrant the filing of charges against Zheng.

Detective Patrick Earl Maanao stated in his report that the arrests of Zheng and Li were made after Esperancilla con-

fessed to police his participation in the scam and implicated the two defendants.

Maanao said Sgt. Tagabuel admitted forging a total of 41 traffic crash reports.

Maanao said that Tagabuel had stated that most of the TCRs he prepared last year was for his co-defendant Cepeda and that he started dealing with Esperancilla only in January.

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## Man, 62, allegedly sexually abused girl

Superior Court Associate Judge David Wiseman has ordered a 62-year-old man to answer charges that he sexually abused a minor.

Wiseman found probable cause to believe that the crimes of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree and sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree were committed.

Wiseman said there is probable cause that Sanito Estrera may have committed the crimes.

Estrera pleaded not guilty. He appeared in court with counsel, assistant public defender Douglas Hartig.

The judge set the status conference for July 17 at 9am.

The defendant allegedly sexually abused a 5-year old girl at a residence in Chalan Kanoa on June 18.

Police said Estrera admitted to police that he sexually abused the child.

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# \$8,000 worth of supplies donated to CHC



Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan and Department of Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez look at the industrial cleaning supplies, scales, trash cans and other items generously donated by Tan Holdings for the Commonwealth Health Center yesterday morning. Other picture shows Tan Holdings executives posing with members of the CHC Volunteers Association, which received the donations.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ  
jackie\_delacruz89@yahoo.com  
JUNIOR REPORTER

Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan donated yesterday \$8,000 worth of cleaning supplies to the Commonwealth Health Center to benefit the CHC Volunteers Association.

"Tan Holdings is always looking to give back to the community. This donation is a way of making the most out of unused company inventories to benefit our island's only hospital," said Ed Arriola, Tan Holdings Corpo-

rate Affairs Office.

Tan Holdings vice president for Corporate Affairs Lynn Knight initiated the project while Arriola coordinated it.

The donated items, consisting of many pallets of cargo, were part of Cosmos Distributors' inventory. CTSI transported and unloaded the items at the hospital.

Public Health Secretary Kevin Villagomez was also present at the occasion.

The items donated consisted of counter brushes, dust mops,



dust mop frames, super hi-dusters, hi-dusters, flexi-dusters, broom handles, floor squeegees, ash/trash containers, marshal container, Spin Kleans, street brooms, truck washes, utility brushes, hand scrubs, counter brushes, Brute containers, Brute dollies, recycling boxes, caddies, containers, a closet organizer,

dust pans, waste baskets, street brooms, floor sweeps, anti slip, and 58 weighing scales.

CHC Volunteers Association president Rita Tenorio said, "The CHC volunteers would really want to express our gratitude to Jerry Tan for all his support, and we hope to have more from you."

## PENTAGON

From Page 1

improves and simplifies the reporting process, grouping the waivers into four broad categories.

Several officials spoke about the new policy on condition of anonymity because it has not yet been released.

Last year, under the continuing strain of Iraq and Afghanistan, the number of recruits with waivers for bad conduct increased. Senior military leaders at the time suggested the department might be able to eliminate waiver requirements for some less serious crimes or lay out guidelines for what offenses demand a waiver.

After months of discussion with the military services, however, that did not pan out.

Marine officials, in particular, said they were reluctant to relax their standards for requiring waivers.

Instead, officials have now decided to create four waiver categories for major misconduct, misconduct, traffic offenses and non-traffic offenses. Under the new policy, each branch

of the armed forces will set its own guidelines on what behavior requires a waiver, as long as it can assign each offense to one of the four categories.

Marines are known for their more strict waiver requirements, which result in a higher percentage of their recruits needing a special exemption to join. The most glaring difference is that one-time marijuana use warrants a waiver.

Thus, roughly half of Marine recruits require waivers to join, largely because more than a third of recruits require a waiver for previous drug use.

In pressing for waiver changes last year, military leaders said they wanted to streamline what can be a complicated, lengthy and cumbersome waiver process. The new policy—in development for nearly two years—will allow the Pentagon to better compare how recruits with certain waivers perform.

Last year, Lt. Gen. Michael Rochelle, the Army's deputy chief of staff for personnel, said a review of the process was necessary to make the military services more consistent.

## BUSINESSES

From Page 1

ulations soon to help them get it.

Zoning officials have recently seen an upswing in requests by small businesses and homeowners seeking clearance to install wind turbines in response to higher electricity rates, according to zoning administrator Steve Tilley. However, local regulations for erecting wind turbines now only address those used to generate power for sale to consumers.

In response, Tilley has drafted a rule he will present to the CNMI Zoning Board at its July 10 meeting that would regulate the installation of small wind turbines designed to power individual buildings.

"We want to encourage the growth of wind power and alternative energy here," Tilley said in an interview Wednesday.

The draft regulation, he added, includes equipment standards for the turbines, height limits, noise reduction requirements, rules for where owners

can put them up, and safety criteria.

The draft regulation is a major step forward for alternative energy in the Commonwealth after Gov. Benigno Fitial last year signed legislation granting consumers the power to the install home-based energy systems like solar panels and wind turbines. Proponents of alternative energy, however, have seen slow progress since then because regulations based on the new law have yet to be crafted.

Wind energy can provide a major cost savings to small businesses and ho-

meowners according to James Thomas, head of Wind Sock Inc., a Saipan-based company that markets the turbines. For example, a business that requires 800 to 1200 kilowatt hours of electricity each year could purchase a \$10,000 to \$12,000 wind turbine and see a return on its investment within two years or less.

"We have no shortage of wind on Saipan," he said. "After all, this is typhoon alley."

The wind turbines Thomas is preparing to sell once the necessary regulations are in place supply power to a

building when spinning, while any additional power needs are met through the normal power grid. The result is a much lower electricity bill, he said.

Several small businesses have approached Thomas about the turbines, he said, but some local government officials are also taking an interest in the technology as a way to reduce overhead costs and stay within their budgets.

"Once everyone knows what the real world benefits are and how it can slash your bills, there's going to be a lot more requests for wind energy," he added.

## MPLT

From Page 1

sets increased by 12.2 percent, or \$8.4 million, from \$68.6 million in fiscal year 2006 to \$77 million in FY 2007.

"MPLT's overall financial condition substantially improved in fiscal year 2007. The change was marked by increased investments, increased income, and decreased operating expenses. These changes caused total assets to increase," the Office of the Public Auditor said in a summary of the audit report.

MPLT manages two trusts. One is for the benefit of the CNMI government, and the other is for the development and maintenance of American Memorial Park. To date, principal payments made to MPLT total \$28.2 million, of which \$2 million was for the AMP fund.

According to the OPA, assets for the general fund soared by \$7.8 million, while assets for the AMP fund grew by over \$500,000 year on year. The hikes were attributed to increases in MPLT's security investments, by \$5.4 million, cash and cash equivalents, \$2.6 million,

and accrued income, \$1.9 million.

MPLT's liabilities in fiscal year 2007 reached \$2.27 million, up from \$450,000 the prior year. A huge bulk, \$2.23 million, of the liabilities represents MPLT transfers out to the central government's fund, as required by the Constitution. The transfer was made to the general fund in October 2007, after the close of the fiscal year.

MPLT's revenues climbed 52.7 percent, from \$5.5 million in FY 2006 to \$8.4 million in FY2007. The revenues increased because of the \$2.2 million rise in the fair value of investments and

\$700,000 increase in interest income.

Since FY2003, MPLT's revenues were highest in FY 2007 and lowest in FY 2006, OPA noted.

Meanwhile, MPLT's expenses plunged by \$240,000, or 27 percent, from \$890,000 in FY 2006 to \$650,000 in FY 2007. MPLT achieved this by cutting spending on professional fees, money management administration, salaries and benefits, contract services, and trustees' spending, OPA said.

OPA added that there were increases in other areas, but they were not significant. Consultancy fees increased by

\$13,000, office supplies by \$2,000, and rent and utilities by \$3,000.

MPLT's expenses in FY 2007 were the lowest in the past five years.

Under the Constitution, the Department of Public Lands is tasked with managing leases of public lands on behalf of the people of Northern Marianas descent. After deducting administrative costs from the collected fees, DPL transfers the balance to the Marianas Public Land Trust. MPLT then invests the money. Income earned from those investments is transferred to the general fund for appropriation by the Legislature.

## BIG

From Page 1

"The numbers look good," Hirshbein said before a meeting of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce Wednesday at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Garapan, adding that Labor currently has about 300 employment slots available below the more than 22,400 worker limit imposed by the bill.

The federalization cap has business

leaders in the Commonwealth shaken, as many expect they will have to compete with each other for available worker slots to fill job vacancies. Many have also voiced fears that the government will give preferential treatment to employers responsible for major construction projects that are beneficial to the local economy.

However, Hirshbein in his speech said such concessions are necessary to encourage future investment in the Commonwealth. "We do have to make

allowances for big development projects in the CNMI," he said, noting new hotels due to be built at Lau Lau Bay and on Tinian. "We have to be sensitive to their needs in terms of encouraging future development."

Hirshbein acknowledged this might have some consequences for other businesses. "Some of your needs may have to be put on hold" in terms of filling job openings, he said, as a result of this policy.

Businesses that rely on foreign work-

ers, he added, should consider attempting to extend their work visas for six months in anticipation of the federal government's takeover of immigration rules, and later submitting an application for a two-year renewal.

"There's no guarantee that this will work," said Hirshbein. "But if you time it well, you could submit a two-year renewal application for a worker in whom you feel secure about your need to keep beyond the end of the transition period. We believe the federal government will

honor those application and those permits approved during the transition period."

Additionally, Hirshbein noted a recent change in Labor's policy for work visa applications. Previous Labor rules stipulated that incomplete applications would be rejected. During a management meeting Wednesday, however, officials clarified the policy to state that an application missing a health certificate will no longer be rejected automatically but one must be provided before the application is approved.



# Islands' car sales jump by 53 percent in June

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN  
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Automotive dealers in the Commonwealth saw a major jump in car sales for the month of June over last year's figures, an auspicious turn given the overall downturn in the local economy.

A report from the Commonwealth Automobile Dealer's Association reveals a 53 percent increase in new car sales compared to June 2007.

"We are happy to see that this month's sales numbers are up and our hope is that this trend will continue," said CADA president Matthew Deets. "So far this year, sales numbers are slightly better than last year. ... This kind of news helps build consumer confidence."

Dealers sold 52 new vehicles in June, compared to 34 sold in the same month last year.

Micro Corp. saw the highest sales increase with 34 new car sales, a 126 percent spike. Sales at Joeten Motors remained the same as June of last year after the dealership sold 10 vehicles. Meanwhile, Triple J Motors saw a minor

sales drop in June. Triple J sold eight cars last month, an 11-percent decline compared

to last year when the dealership sold nine.

In total, dealers sold 34 se-

dans, five trucks, two vans and 11 sport utility vehicles last month. Toyota sales dominated

the market with 27 units sold. The Toyota Corolla was among the top sellers, Deets noted, after dealers sold 19 of them. Deets added the consumer trend toward more fuel-efficient vehicle

continues to drive sales.

Mazda sales followed those for Toyota in June, according to the report, with eight sold. Nissan sales finished closely behind Mazda with 6 sold.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Red Cross Health and Safety Training

■ Adult CPR – July 26, 2008, Saturday, from 8am to 12pm

■ First Aid – July 26, 2008, Saturday, from 12pm to 5pm

■ Infant & Child CPR – August 9, 2008, Saturday, from 8am to 1pm.

The training fee for Adult CPR and First Aid is \$30 per person/per course and the training fee for the Infant & Child CPR is \$35 per person. A participant's booklet is required. Participant's booklet is \$5 each and is good for all three courses.

For more information, call the NMI Chapter Office at 234-3459. (PR)

# SAIPAN LIBERATION DAY



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**i570 NEW Tough Phone**  
**POSTPAID**  
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Roll over unused minutes
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Prepaid card you buy	Supercharged value you get
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# Friday Seafood Night with Budweiser Beer

**July 4, 2008**

# Independence Day

**6:00pm to 9:30pm**



**1 Eats FREE For Every Group of 6!**

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# Senate approves proportionate pension bill

The Senate has passed a bill allowing the NMI Retirement Fund to pay new retirees less than their full pension.

The bill, cosponsored by Sens. Paterno Hocog and Paul Manglona, cleared the Senate by a unanimous vote. It now heads to the House of Representatives for action.

The legislation is designed to allow eligible government employees to retire without causing financial burden to the pension agency, which has not been receiving payments from the central government.

The Retirement Fund is currently not processing applications because the government is not paying contributions.

“This amendment [to the law] is temporary [and will be implemented only] until such time as the CNMI government can become current on the deficient employer contribution and remit

pursuant to applicable laws all actuarially determined employer contributions,” the bill states.

“Amendment of Public Law 15-61 is crucial in order to ensure NMI Retirement Fund members’ assets are continually protected and yet, still allow eligible Retirement Fund members to receive a proportionate amount of their pension upon qualification,” it adds.

P.L. 15-61 prohibits the Retirement Fund from applying the proportionate pension scheme.

The Senate-approved bill would allow the Fund, on a case-by-case basis, to make full pension payments to individual members if their employing agency makes a full payment for them, or if the Legislature appropriates the money.

It also includes a provision that would make it illegal for the government to replace a new retiree unless the retiree’s contribution is fully paid or the Legislature allows the hiring.

The CNMI government has stopped remitting employer contributions to the Fund since March 2006. According to the Retirement Fund, as of Sept. 30, 2007, the CNMI government owed the pension program \$132 million in employer contributions, excluding penalties and interest. *(Agnes E. Donato)*

## Candidacy filings by delegate bets to start

The Commonwealth Election Commission will accept candidacy filings for the Northern Marianas’ first ever delegate election starting Monday, July 7, 2008.

The nomination period will be open for a month’s period ending on Aug. 6, 2007.

The CNMI Legislature has yet to pass a law to “localize” the federal law, which granted the Northern Marianas a delegate seat in the U.S. Congress.

But candidates for delegate are believed to be subject to the same requirements that previously applied to candidates for resident representative to the United States.

Under election law, nominating petitions for Washington representative must include signatures of at least 200 registered voters and a filing fee of \$500. These requirements apply for both political party and independent nominations.

Those who have expressed interest in running for delegate are Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio, retired judge Juan T. Lizauma, Election Commission chief Gregorio Sablan, TV talk show host John Oliver Gonzales, and businessman Patrick M. Calvo.

Sen. Luis Crisostimo has sought the endorsement of the Democratic Party. A primary is possible. *(Agnes E. Donato)*

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS : CIVIL  
HOUSING : ACTION  
CORPORATION, : NO. 07-527

Plaintiff, :  
-v- :  
JEREMY M. MENDIOLA :  
and AGNES ANN :  
TEREYAMA MENDIOLA, :  
Defendants. :

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on June 4, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 026 K 48, situated in lower Dandan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 816 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 026 K 03, dated December 15, 1992, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 92-3822, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Wednesday, July 9, 2008, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 13th day of June, 2008:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS : CIVIL  
HOUSING : ACTION  
CORPORATION, : NO. 07-0088

Plaintiff, :  
-v- :  
NANCER W. MARTIN and :  
JACINTA C. MARTIN, :  
Defendants. :

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on June 4, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 010 K 169, situated in Dandan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 933 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 010 K 01 dated August 19, 1987, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 98-2012, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Wednesday, July 9, 2008, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 13th day of June, 2008:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS : CIVIL  
HOUSING : ACTION  
CORPORATION, : NO. 07-422

Plaintiff, :  
-v- :  
LUCINDA ROSA L. :  
ROSARIO, :  
Defendant. :

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on June 4, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot No. 011 G 1302, situated in Kagman III, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 931 square meters, more or less, as shown on DLS Check No. 011 G 24 dated December 9, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 96-2567, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Wednesday, July 9, 2008, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 13th day of June, 2008:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING  
Second Floor Afetna Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950  
Telephone no. (670) 236-0956/0957 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0995

REVOCAATION OF ENTRY PERMITS  
FOR FAILURE TO ATTEND ORIENTATION  
July 3, 2008 First Notice ● July 7, 2008 Second Notice

Notice is hereby given to the persons listed below to appear at the Hearing Office, Department of Labor, Second Floor, Afetna Square Building, San Antonio, on the date and at the time listed below.  
Public Law 15-108, Section 4934, requires each person who enters the Commonwealth for employment after January 1, 2008 to attend an orientation session at the Department of Labor within one week after arrival. Orientation sessions are held every Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. at the Department of Labor, 2nd floor, Afetna Square Building, San Antonio. Persons attending are required to sign in and to sign out of the session.  
The persons on this list located on Saipan may attend the orientation session on Tuesday, July 8, 2008 or Tuesday, July 15, 2008 in order to fulfill the statutory requirement. The persons on the list located in Rota or Tinian may report to the Resident Director's office to schedule orientation there. The entry permit of any person on the list set out below who has not attended an orientation session may be revoked by the Director of Labor. At the hearings scheduled below, the Director of Labor will seek to revoke the permit of any person who has not attended an orientation session.

Employee	Employer	Hearing Date	Time
AMORIN, MIGUEL ILAGAN	DCM GROUP INC., CNMI	July 18, 2008	10:00 a.m.
BALOTOC, JERRY MANGAHAS	DCM GROUP INC., CNMI	July 18, 2008	10:00 a.m.
BANAG, FRED LINGAD JR.	TOLEDO, ABIGAIL C.	July 18, 2008	11:00 a.m.
CORTES, CARLOS EGUINA	TINIAN SHIPPING & TRANSPORTATION	July 18, 2008	11:00 a.m.
CORTEZ, RUTH CHICO	OOKA RITA M.	July 18, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DELA CRUZ, JEFFREY ZAFRA	DCM GROUP INC., CNMI	July 18, 2008	10:00 a.m.
GALANG, ROMMEL MORENO	DCM GROUP INC., CNMI	July 18, 2008	10:00 a.m.
GARCIA, JAY-R MORENO	DCM GROUP INC., CNMI	July 18, 2008	10:00 a.m.
GONZALES, SHERYL DANOLA	ANGEL'S INTL. SCHOOL OF DANCE INC.	July 18, 2008	9:00 a.m.
GUTIERREZ, JULIO BULURAN	DCM GROUP INC., CNMI	July 18, 2008	10:00 a.m.
JEONG, YUN JEONG	SE HOON CORP.	July 18, 2008	11:00 a.m.
KABIGTING, JESSIE RELUCIO	CRUZ JESUS P	July 18, 2008	9:00 a.m.
KAWABATA, HIROYUKI	N'S GAME SAIPAN CO., LTD	July 18, 2008	9:00 a.m.
MACAYAON, JUAN Z.	DCM GROUP INC., CNMI	July 18, 2008	10:00 a.m.
NAD, JENNILYN REYES	RONNIE CALVO	July 18, 2008	11:00 a.m.
NATNAT, JOEL SORIANO	DCM GROUP INC., CNMI	July 18, 2008	10:00 a.m.
NERIZON, VINCENT MALIINDA	DELA CRUZ, ROSEMARIE	July 18, 2008	9:00 a.m.
PARK, JWA JI JA	N'S GAME SAIPAN CO., LTD	July 18, 2008	9:00 a.m.
PASCUAL, EUSTAQUIO JR. MENDOZA	DCM GROUP INC., CNMI	July 18, 2008	10:00 a.m.
PASCUAL, SESINANDO MENDOZA	DCM GROUP INC., CNMI	July 18, 2008	10:00 a.m.
PHILLIPS, OLIVER	HONG KONG OVS INV LTD	July 18, 2008	9:00 a.m.
PIMENTEL, MICHAEL BALLESTEROS	YOU RIM CORP.	July 18, 2008	11:00 a.m.
ROSINE, ROSALINDA LOPEZ	PALACIOS RUBY ROSA	July 18, 2008	11:00 a.m.
TOLATO, CHRISTOPHER TILANO	DCM GROUP INC., CNMI	July 18, 2008	10:00 a.m.
TUMBOKON, KATHRINA T.	ROTA RESORT	July 18, 2008	11:00 a.m.
WU, ZHONG	U.S. CNMI DEV. CO	July 18, 2008	11:00 a.m.
ZHANG, MIAO	OH YEAH FASHION	July 18, 2008	9:00 a.m.

SUMMER BASH PARTY



Palms Resort Saipan would like to extend a sincere appreciation to all of the sponsoring businesses and their employees for their time, contribution and commitment to a successful "Summer Bash Party" event held at the hotel Pool Deck and Beach last Saturday, June 28, 2008.

To our patrons who really do know how to have fun, Palms Resort Saipan wants to say thank you and we appreciate your continued support. There will be more activities to come in the very near future at Palms Resort Saipan.

Thank you,

Hiroyuki Saito  
President



Sponsored by:





# OPA denies protest vs PSS food contract

By **AGNES E. DONATO**  
agnes\_donato@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Office of the Public Auditor has affirmed the Public School

System's decision to deny the protest filed by one of PSS' food service contractors.

OPA denied the appeal filed by Allied Construction Corpo-

ration, which operates Barny's Pizza, saying it is in the best interest of PSS and the school-children to affirm the contracts awarded by PSS.

The food service contracts are for provision of food to both private and public schools in Saipan. The contracts include breakfast, lunch, and Head Start snacks. Several contractors were hired, as there is no single vendor capable of providing all of the meals at all of the schools.

Barny's Pizza, one of the five contractors hired by PSS, had filed the protest because it believed the award process was "arbitrary and capricious," and violated the PSS procurement regulations and Commonwealth law. The company had asked OPA to revoke all contract awards and to disqualify at least two contractors, whose qualifications had been argued questionable.

Public Auditor Michael S. Sablan acknowledged there were problems with the contracts, but said it would be counterproductive to terminate the contracts now.

"In the event the contracts are terminated, the meal programs would be interrupted. This would not only be contrary to the best interest of PSS, but would be contrary to the best interest of the children receiving those meals," Sablan said.

He added that the term of the initial contracts is almost ending and services for the year have been provided. Terminating the contracts would have no impact for the school year.

Nevertheless, Sablan urged PSS to immediately conduct a new procurement for food service provision in Saipan, and address the concerns raised in the appeal and OPA's decision.

## BOOK REVIEW

### An irreverent take on the history of CNMI

By **JAYVEE VALLEJERA**  
editor@saipantribune.com  
EDITOR

There's a new book out on the history of the Commonwealth but, before you shrug and think, "One more stodgy stuff to go through," I must quickly disabuse you of such a grossly mistaken notion.

*A Pictorial History of the Northern Mariana Islands, Part 1*, written and illustrated by Beverly Battaglia, is a funny, irreverent book that is a wealth of not just knowledge but also tons of witty asides,

fascinated by the rich past of the Marianas Islands, a history unmentioned in most social studies texts," according to a quote taken from her book.

"Eager to learn more, she read the available books and literature on the islands, toured Guam, Saipan, Rota, Tinian, and Pagan, hiked the jungles, and listen to tales that were told to her. She then started writing the book two years ago and had it published early this year," it said.

Interviewed at home on Tinian via telephone, Battaglia said,

"I'm excited something that's near to my heart has finally come about. I enjoyed it and I hope other people, too. I was fun to write and I'm pleased at how it came out."

"I took NMI history classes with historian Don Farrell, so I have

learned many things from him. I also spoke to some archeologists and residents about some stories like ghosts and spirits," she added.

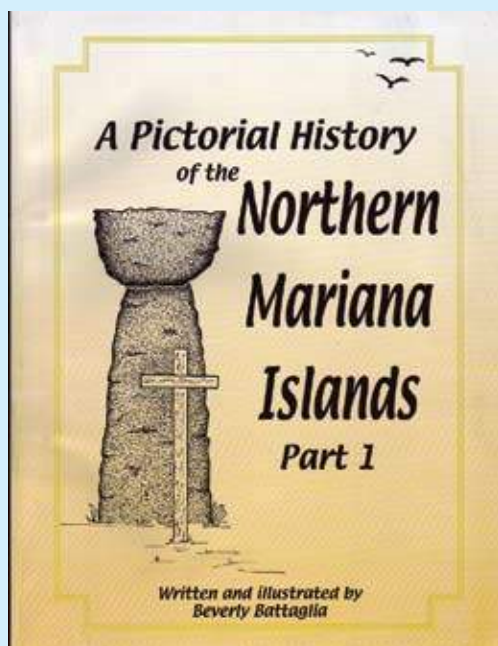
Battaglia is now working on Part 2 of the book ("on the off chance that more than family and friends might actually buy Part 1"), which will cover the Japanese administration, World War II, Trust Territory Times, the Covenant, and the Constitution.

Battaglia has been living on Tinian with her husband, daughter, and four cats since 1989. They will be moving to Placerville, California on July 5.

Battaglia was born and raised in California. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Political Science and a Masters Degree in American Social History at California State University, Chico.

This is her first book and it is available at the Northern Marianas College bookstore and the CNMI Museum along Middle Road next to Sugar King Park. (with *Jacqueline Dela Cruz*)

Battaglia, a history teacher on Tinian, was first inspired to write the book some 10 years ago. "She was immediately



IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS		
DONALD BUFON,	:	CIVIL ACTION NO. 04-0043
Plaintiff,	:	
-v-	:	
SAMUEL RAYBURN,	:	
Defendant.	:	
<b>THIRD AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE</b>		
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a Writ of Execution issued by the Court in this matter on October 12, 2007, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property:		
1. Lot No 012 B 08, situated in Calabera, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing 39,297 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 0 12 B 01, which was registered with the Land Registry as Document No. 1466 on the 15th of March, 1972.		
2. Tract 22609 (formerly H-65), situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 10,845 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2165/74, the original of which was registered June 15, 1976 as Land Registry Document No. 5272.		
3. Tract 22610 (formerly H-65 A), situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 13,558 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2164/74, the original of which was registered June 15, 1976 as Land Registry Document No. 5272.		
4. Lot E.A. 579, situated in Laualau, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 10,056 square meters, more or less, being situated in Land Square Seven, Section R, Units u and v, and Land Square Ten, Section 1, Units a and b, as shown on APWO Drawings No. 11411 and 11414 on file with the Clerk of Courts (being all that property conveyed by that Grant of Public Domain from the Government of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands to Joaquin I. Pangellinan executed April 18, 1956 and filed April 25, 1956 at the Clerk of Courts).		
5. Tract/Lot No. H-378, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 27,537 square meters, more or less, as shown on Division of Lands & Surveys Official survey plat no. 2136/89 dated August 10, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 89-2641, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.		
6. Tract/Lot No. H-378 "A", situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 1,585 square meters, more or less, as shown on Division of Lands & Surveys Official survey plat no. 2136/89 dated August 10, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 89-2641, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.		
7. Lot 001 C 10, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 9,999 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 C 01, the original of which was recorded with the Commonwealth Recorder on March 20, 1980, as Document No. 9811.		
8. Lot 001 C 16 (part of original Lot 001 C 06), situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 14,579 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 C 04, the original of which was recorded with the Commonwealth Recorder on June 13, 1986, as Document No. 86-1187.		
9. Lot 0 12 J 13, Parcel "A", situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, consisting of the northern portion of Lot 012 J 13, and containing an area of 2,319 square meters, more or less.		
<b>Date, Time, and Place of Sale.</b> The sale will be held on Wednesday, July 9, 2008, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.		
<b>Terms and Conditions of Sale.</b> The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.		
DATED, this 11th day of June, 2008:		
/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer		

**PEPSI TWIST AND WIN**

**July 4th Special**  
July 3rd and 4th only

**TWIST IT. COLLECT IT. WIN IT!**

Bring 2 sets of caps that Spell **PEPSI** and Receive a **FREE Pepsi Max TOWEL** or a **Pepsi Foldable Easy Chair**  
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Foldable easy Chair  
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# Family of man who died in plane seeks aid to get body from Guam

Family members and friends of a Saipan-based Filipino gas attendant who died of a heart attack aboard a plane are still raising funds needed to get his remains from Guam and bring him home to the Philippines.

Zenaida Balisalisa told *Saipan Tribune* they are hoping that people will help them financially so they could remove the body of her husband, Amado Balisalisa, from a funeral parlor in Guam.

Balisalisa will be buried in his hometown in Pangasinan, a province located in the northern part of the Philippines.

Mrs. Balisalisa said she and the family are very thankful to those who have already helped them,

especially Irene Tantiado of the Coalition of United Workers.

In an interview, Tantiado said they estimate the total cost for funeral and medical expenses as well as plane tickets between \$8,000 to \$10,000.

The Balisalisas have four children. One is staying in Guam, while three are on Saipan. Only Mrs. Balisalisa and one of the children are expected to attend the burial.

Continental Airlines has expressed willingness to offer a discounted fare for the remains.

"The family members and friends already conducted fundraising left and right, but it is still not enough," Tantiado said. She learned that, as of Tuesday,

the family was able to raise just a little over \$4,000.

She said the fundraising activity conducted last Saturday by Balisalisa's son and friends—with the assistance of McDonald's management—produced about \$1,200.

Tantiado said that Balisalisa's employer, Chamber of Commerce president and businessman Jim Arenovski, was among the first to give financial assistance to the family.

Tantiado said she already forwarded to the family a total of \$1,500 that was channeled through her by some concerned people.

Balisalisa, 47, had an Immediate Relative status because of

his son. He was reportedly on a Continental direct flight from Manila to Saipan last June 18 when he had a heart attack. The incident prompted the plane to make an emergency landing in Guam where Balisalisa was pronounced dead at the hospital.

Tantiado said she learned that Balisalisa just had a bypass operation in March in the Philippines. Without a medical clearance, he made the June 18 flight because of the family's scheduled interview for a green card in Guam on June 23.

Tantiado said anyone who wants to help may contact her at 483-6867 or the family at 288-1580 or 285-1115. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 03, 2000

### 6 firms bid for Tinian airport

Six companies have officially submitted their respective proposal to undertake the construction of the new West Tinian International Airport, with Telesource Corporation tendering the lowest amount at a maximum of \$16.9 million for the 8,600-linear foot runway. Telesource proposed to carry out the construction of a 7,800-foot runway of the West Tinian International Airport, which is part of the Basic Bid, at \$15.7 million, which is lower by just about \$500,000 from second lowest bidder, Guandong Overseas Corporation.

### Sablan faces Babauta in GOP primary

Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan and Resident Representative to Washington Juan N. Babauta led the pack of few Republican members who have expressed intention this early to run in next year's general elections in the CNMI. The GOP closed on Friday the acceptance of "letters of declaration" or "notices of intent" from aspirants seeking the party's nomination for the positions of governor, lieutenant governor and resident representative to the United States as well as mayor and senators for Saipan.

### CPA stands pat on U.S.-DOT protest

Despite its decision to resume nonstop flights between Saipan and Osaka, Japan, Continental Micronesia is not likely to persuade the Commonwealth Ports Authority to change its position on the carrier's application for the renewal of its authority to fly between Sendai/Sapporo and Saipan/Guam. CPA Board Chair Roman S. Palacios said the ports authority is not backing out on its strong position to encourage Continental Micronesia to deploy more flights between several Japanese cities and the Northern Marianas.

July 03, 2001

### Due to funding woes BOE may shelve kinder program

The Board of Education's Committee on Fiscal and Personnel is planning to close the Public School System's kindergarten program in school year 2001-2002 due to lack of funds. The proposed move is only one among many repercussions anticipated to hit a public education system gripped with funding woes. Earlier, BOE officials expressed fears persistent funding cuts may cause schools to discontinue offering elective courses, increase class sizes and generally affect overall student achievement.

### Unpaid government debts threaten pension checks

Pensioners of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund are in danger of not receiving their checks this July 15 unless the Commonwealth government settles its debts amounting to \$60 million. As such, the Fund's Board of Trustees is leaning toward the filing of a lawsuit against the CNMI government unless an agreement is arrived at between the Fund and the government that would pave the way for the settlement of the arrears.

### All systems go for LibDay celebration

The Department of Public Safety and the Liberation Day Steering Committee yesterday unveiled a comprehensive traffic plan for tomorrow's annual July 4th celebration. All roads leading to the American Memorial Park will be closed to traffic at exactly 7am to give way to eleven floats and 15 marching units that will participate in this year's Liberation Day activity.

July 03, 2002

### Diego unfazed by projected shortfall

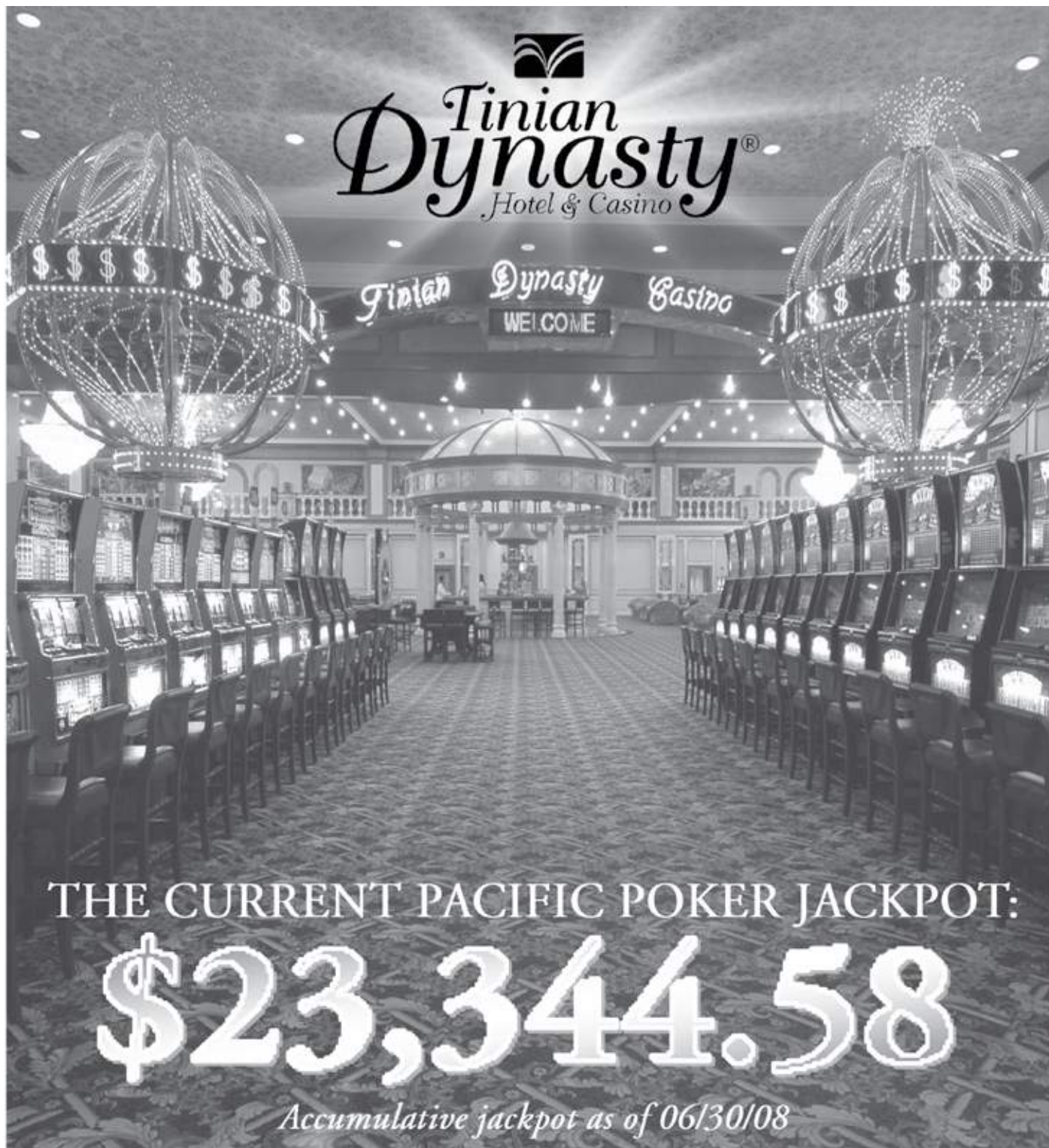
Despite a projected \$2 million shortfall in revenue, the Babauta administration has advised the Legislature that it is maintaining its original budget submission of \$213 million for Fiscal Year 2003. In a letter to the presiding officers of the Legislature, acting Gov. Diego T. Benavente said their review of revenue estimates have found that all projections remain valid poker license renewals.

### Rough financial ride for CPA

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is facing a rough financial ride ahead—or at least for the remaining months of the current financial year—due to the slowdown in revenue-generating activities at both the seaport and the airport. The ports authority is expecting a revenue shortfall, thanks but no thanks to the slow rally of the tourism and garment industries.

### Heinz: \$213-M budget doubtful

With the government itself predicting current revenue collections to hit \$193.4 million, there is no reason to expect the adoption in toto of the Babauta administration's \$213-million budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2003. House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider stressed this point, even as he pointed out that, if one were to use the revenue collection trend for the last eight months, the actual collections could be predicted to reach \$182.7 million only.



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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

### Last-minute missiles

The Bush administration may have radically shifted its foreign policy more than once in the past seven years, but it has been foolishly consistent in one endeavor: the overzealous pursuit of missile defense. Before and after Sept. 11, 2001, without regard for technological failures or the mixed results of testing, the administration has relentlessly and recklessly sought to build and deploy interceptors in Alaska and Europe and on ships. Before the 2004 election, the Pentagon rushed to pour concrete for silos in Alaska, though the ground-based system had not passed the most rudimentary tests or even been equipped with all of its components. Now the State Department is trying to seal agreements with Poland and the Czech Republic for a second interceptor base and a large radar station before President Bush leaves office. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice hopes to travel to Prague and maybe to Warsaw early this month.

The rush to lay the groundwork for a European missile defense has notoriously roiled U.S. relations with Russia, which has falsely portrayed the 10 interceptors planned for Poland as a threat to Russian security. The real problems with the administration's approach lie elsewhere. Mr. Bush is trying to lock Poland and the Czech Republic into deals before the Pentagon has demonstrated that the missile system can accomplish the mission of defending both northern Europe and the United States from a missile attack from Iran. The deals are controversial in both countries and have strained U.S. relations with both governments.

Negotiations with Poland are particularly problematic. Polish officials view the world through a parochial lens: They say bluntly that they perceive no threat to their country from Iran; nor do they feel obliged to host the missile base simply because Poland is a NATO ally of the United States. Instead, the government of Prime Minister Donald Tusk, which ordered a withdrawal of Polish troops from Iraq shortly after taking office last year, is seeking to extract the maximum benefit from the Bush administration's lame-duck lust for a deal. Poland has asked for U.S. military aid and air defense equipment, including Patriot missile batteries, that could add billions of dollars to an already strained U.S. defense budget. The Polish defense minister has said the United States must place Poland in the same category as Egypt and Pakistan, which are among the largest recipients of American aid.

Frustrated by such demands, the Bush administration recently held talks with Poland's neighbor Lithuania about the missile base. In talks with the Poles this week in Washington, the administration is also making compromise offers that would not involve large amounts of aid. But it would be better off leaving the matter for the next administration. The House and the Senate have passed legislation that rightly links funding to a certification by the secretary of defense that the missile interceptors have passed rigorous testing. That testing will not be completed until at least 2010. Provided its effectiveness is proven, a European missile defense system may be worth building. But it is time for the Bush administration to stop its deploy-at-all costs crusade.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

# ALL UNITS PLEASE RESPOND TO THE SMOKING VIOLATION COMPLAINT!!



## Power to the people

There's been a lot of criticism about the government and its control over agencies and activities, as well as decisions that have created our current state of affairs. Politicians base their decisions on a philosophy or a set of beliefs. Their collective beliefs are translated into behaviors they expect citizens to observe through laws and regulations, which define a political system used to govern the people. We simply call this process our government.

With Independence/Liberation Day approaching, we felt it would be interesting to focus our thoughts on government and its use of power. What political system are we really following? Before you answer too quickly, read each of the statements below, and choose the one you feel best describes how the government or politicians are running things.

The CNMI is based on a system of government in which:

- A. decisions are based on the majority, and every person has the free and equal right to participate in the government.
- B. a small group of elected representatives have the responsibility to exercise power over the citizens.
- C. a small group of people or families control the islands, often for their own self-serving purposes.
- D. an individual has centralized control of private enterprise, represses opposition, and there is excessive nationalism (the desire to achieve political independence by people with a separate identity and culture).

There are no right or wrong answers because it is based on your experience and how you feel the government is operating. Make sure you have made your choice before reading on.

The first statement describes a *democracy* and it involves mass participation to make decisions. This can work well with a small group of people in a business or family, but it does not work with a large state or nation. Most people characterize the U.S. form of government as a democracy, but in reality it is a *democratic republic*.

Choice "B" defines a *republic*. The Founding Fathers of the United States wrote into the Constitution the democratic principles of mass participation of qualified voters in electing their representatives, but then they turned to the principle of a republic to have those representatives pass the laws and administer the government.

If you felt statement "C" better describes the current form of government, then you feel the CNMI operates as an *oligarchy*. This statement also could describe a plutocracy or aristocracy, depending on the ruling faction. Choice "D" describes *fascism*, or it might define a dictatorship or monarchy. Both "C" and "D" might be described as "Ruler's Law," which is a form of gov-

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC ([www.bizresults.org](http://www.bizresults.org)). They can be contacted at [biz\\_results@yahoo.com](mailto:biz_results@yahoo.com).



ernment that allows total authority and power to rest with an individual or party in power. When this form of central government exercises power in a manner that causes people to suffer, it represents a despotic government.

What happens when the people feel that the government has gone "bad" and there is a time for change? They can either wait for the next election cycle to vote others into office, or they might start a revolution to try and make things better. This is what the United States did when it sought independence from the British Empire. In recent times, it is what happened in the Philippines when individuals collectively exercised their People Power to oust an unpopular leader.

We're witnessing the rumblings of malcontent people who feel some or most of their elected leaders are missing the mark. Approximately 200 CNMI community members gathered to discuss the misuse of power (as in utility) on June 17th and they outlined a series of reasonable demands for greater transparency, accountability, and long-term solutions. The desired outcome is to have reliable, dependable, and affordable power for the entire CNMI.

Even though the discussion focused on CUC and the power situation, some participants expressed their disappointment in the lack of government intervention. You could say that they were discontented with the use or abuse of power from both CUC and the politicians. If the situation is unresolved, it could fester into a larger issue where the people will exercise their power. CUC may become the Boston Tea Party of the Commonwealth. I guess you could say that unless power is given to the people, the people will take away the power from their "leaders." Power to the people—ain't it great!

On a side note, Jim Bell—the man who recently swam the Tinian Channel—is going to start his swim around Saipan at 9:00 a.m. on July 4th. He'll start at Sugar Dock and swim to Mañagaha for his first leg. It will take several weeks as he completes the 80-mile distance in sections around the island. Come join us on Friday morning to see Jim off at Sugar Dock.



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# Nixonian fallacy: Oil futures and the folly of price controls

By **SEBASTIAN MALLABY**  
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

A few years back, when “subprime” generally referred to beef, economists used to congratulate themselves on their progress since the 1970s. Central banks had learned to tame inflation. Politicians had learned to appreciate the folly of price controls. Thanks to the economics profession, policy-makers had grown wiser.

Well, inflation has returned. And politicians are out to control prices again, this time in futures markets.

You see this most clearly with oil prices. Barack Obama worries that “unregulated energy speculators may be distorting the market.” John McCain complains that “while a few reckless speculators are counting their paper profits, most Americans are coming up on the short end.” On Thursday a measure demanding a clampdown on oil trading passed the House 402 to 19.

So it’s time for a quick refresher: Richard Nixon’s early-1970s price controls were a disaster. Administering controls on energy alone took an estimated 5 million man-hours per year and punished motorists with gas lines. Repeating this experiment by clamping down on oil trading is like burning your hand on a gas stove and then sitting on a barbecue.

Would-be Nixons argue that hedge funds and their ilk are piling into oil futures, driving prices above “reasonable” levels. They note that in 2000, speculators owned just over a third of the “paper oil” traded on the New York Mercantile Exchange but now own more than two-thirds. This buying pressure on paper oil is said to be pushing physical oil up. Stop the speculation, they say, and prices would revert to normal.

The most basic problem with this claim is that a speculator can

buy paper oil only if someone else sells to him. For every trader who bets on a price rise, there must be another who bets the opposite. So an increase in the number of speculative players does not show whether prices will move up or down. Think of a youth soccer team: If it adds two extra players it doesn’t become more likely to win, because its opponents will add two players as well.

What matters is who those players are: Will they aggressively push the ball up the field, or will they retreat? Sometimes the bulls are more eager than the bears, and prices spiral upward. But this is not some autonomous force that comes out of nowhere. If the bulls have the upper hand, it’s generally because supply and demand favor higher prices. The fundamentals of physical oil drive the psychology around paper oil more than vice versa.

Why do I think that? Financial behavior often influences the real economy. In the recent mortgage bubble, for example, financiers made mortgages available to people who had been ineligible: They changed the fundamentals of demand for housing. But oil speculation is not like that. Investors who buy paper oil do not alter the demand for physical oil. Every paper claim they buy is a paper claim they will later sell, because they have no intention of converting their paper into real oil stocks. Oil is too expensive and cumbersome to store. A speculator is not going to show up in Cushing, Okla., when his futures contract matures and drive away with a tanker truck full of oil.

The uncertain connection between speculation and price trends is clear in recent history. The Commodity Futures Trading Commission reports how much paper oil is bought and sold by commercial users — oil companies, refiners — and how much is bought and sold by speculators. During the first seven months of 2007, speculators as a group tripled the amount of paper oil they owned, buying it from commercial players. But since last August, speculators as

a group have not added to their positions — yet this was when oil prices went skyward.

It would be too much to claim that futures prices don’t influence players in the physical market. But to the limited extent that speculators’ influence is real, this is probably a good thing. If speculators see that oil suppliers are headed for trouble and that oil demand is trending up, they express their expectation of a higher price via the futures market. This can deliver a valuable message: Governments and consumers had better adjust before shortages get even nastier.

Just as in Nixon’s day, government’s response to runaway prices would have unintended consequences. The most popular proposals would limit how many contracts a speculator can buy or sell on a futures exchange, and prevent trading with mostly borrowed money. But the more you restrict trading on U.S. exchanges, the more you drive trading into the shadowy world of the unregulated swaps market or onto offshore rivals. In the 1980s, Japan tried to prevent futures traders in Osaka from speculating on the Nikkei stock index. Nikkei futures trading thrived — in Singapore.

Most fundamentally, Nixon’s heirs forget that the “speculators” they attack are often trying to reduce risk, not embrace it. Pension funds have piled into oil because they are trying to protect themselves from inflation. Small investors who load up on retail oil funds are mostly doing the same. I know my family will consume several thousand dollars’ worth of oil this year, so I logged on to Fidelity’s Web site and locked in my price. Does Congress think I’m irresponsible?

*Mallaby is a fellow for International Economics with the Council on Foreign Relations.*

## Letters to the Editor

# The mess at CUC

*Editor’s Note: The following letter is being published as a series due to its length.*

### Third of a five-part series

For the readers, and some at CUC, it is important to understand that high-speed engines run at above 950 revolutions per minute (rpm), medium speed engines run at above 700 rpm to 950rpm. The faster the engine, the less efficient is the fuel consumption. For base load operations (i.e., full time power production), utilities use low to medium speed engines. For peaking, high-speed engines such as the Aggreko units are used. Now, we are doing the reverse, using high-speed peaking machines for base load. The result will be higher costs, to be passed on to the residents and business community.

Let do some industry comparisons. The specific fuel consumption of a medium-speed engine today is around 7600 btu per kilowatt hour or uses about 175 grams of fuel per kWh. The Aggreko engines will operate around 9400 btu per kilowatt hour or use about 230 grams of fuel per kWh, perhaps less if the equipment is new. Power Plant 2, if properly rehabilitated should operate around 8,200 btu per kWh. Obviously, efficient utilities with more than 10MW power demand use medium-speed or, if demand warrants, slow-speed engines. You don’t see Guam or even our friends in Palau, Fiji or even the minor islands in the Philippines using 1MW machines for base load, except of course on Saipan, and we are being proudly told we got to use more. All over Africa, the excessive use of high-speed engines is causing economic havoc due to high fuel costs. Now, the cost of a medium-speed engine running and producing 20MW of power—using Caterpillar, Wartsila, or a Man engine including fuel—should be about 29 cents per kWh. This includes capital recovery in 12 years, of around

# Difficult to inhale

I’ve always enjoyed Mr Bateman’s comments, even though some are tongue in cheek. His comments relative to secondhand smoke are, however, difficult to inhale!

There is no question relative to the unhealthy effects of second-hand smoke. One can consume all the mayonnaise they choose, and clog up their arteries, but it isn’t going to have any affect on anyone else. Same thing with french fries.

Secondhand smoke, on the other hand is a killer. I chat with patients many times a day attempting to educate them relative to the medical chances they take by smoking and/or chewing betel nut. It is a very difficult habit to break. The success rate is approximately 18 percent, and the *only* people who are successful are those who truly want to stop!

5.5 cents per kWh. Remember, Aggreko fuel cost will be about 30 cents per kWh, and their rental charge is 5 cents per gallon for old, cheaper, smaller units.

Also medium-speed engines should operate on heavy fuel, which today on the spot market is about \$680 per ton, versus diesel no. 2 fuel that CUC uses, which costs around \$1,300 per ton. The heating value difference between the fuel is negligible, but the price difference is huge—about 40 percent. In other words, CUC is using the wrong oil for the engines. And guess who switched the Power Plant I fuel from heavy fuel to diesel no. 2?

Here comes the shocker: CUC has suffered over \$270 million in losses from this single mistake perpetuated by the most incompetent utility manager that I have ever come across. The burden carried by the people of the CNMI over the years is the accumulation of the costly mistakes of the executive director who replaced me, when he took over the helm of the CUC. Now, he is the Lieutenant Governor. He had two and a half years to turn around CUC. What has he delivered to all of us? Higher bills, higher bills and more outages to his credential.

No doubt, CUC is trying hard to obtain necessary power generation facility to augment the shortfalls. CUC, it would seem, is trying to do something. The urgency of the Aggreko contract tells us that the rehabilitation at Power Plant I is not going right. If DCM is doing a great job, we certainly don’t need the temporary power from Aggreko. But obviously, CUC doesn’t believe that DCM can complete the work, or there is obviously some kind of reason for expanding the Aggreko contract that we are not privy to.

The DCM contract is a complete mess, but some background will help the readers understand what has transpired. It seems that in August 2007, the DCM group visited Power Plant I for a few days. Thereafter they submitted a proposal comprising of a list of parts to

rehabilitate Power Plant I and a proposed schedule. DCM submitted a list of parts that they claim was needed for seven of the eight engines at Power Plant I. The total parts costs submitted for Engines 1, 2 and 3 were identical. The total parts costs for Engines No 5, 6, 7 and 8 are also identical. This is despite the fact that each engine was having different mechanical and electrical difficulties. It appears DCM simply listed some part numbers without actually determining if these parts are required or sufficient. It was simply a list for a proposal. Except for taking some used lube oil as samples, DCM did not conduct any tests, or inspect the vibrations of the engine and review the operations and maintenance logs. No used oil lube tests were submitted by DCM. Such tests and used lube oil samples and performance reviews are the basis for plant rehabilitation estimations. DCM just went in, looked around, went home, and prepared a proposal and claimed that they could complete the rehabilitation of Power Plant I within 90 days of contract execution.

What is disturbing is that, at the same time, CUC had already received correspondence from Mitsubishi Heavy Industries that the complete lining and critical parts are required to complete the rehabilitation of Power Plant I, making the 90-day schedule from DCM more than suspect. Mitsubishi informed CUC that some of the parts would take at least 200 days to manufacture. Mitsubishi provided detail listing of the parts needed for replacement. Despite having the information, the Fitial Administration decided that DCM is more qualified and knowledgeable.

*To be continued.*

**Ramon S. Guerrero**  
*As Perdido, Saipan*

Tobacco consumption is dangerous not only to the consumer’s health, but also to anyone near them, *especially children!* Here is a shortened list of medical issues that effect smokers:

- Heart disease
- Lung disease, including Emphysema as well as lung cancer
- Cancer of the throat, mouth, liver, brain, and kidneys.

Innocent people who work and/or live around smokers have a higher incidence of all of the above listed diseases.

Add this bit of science to the pot: Smokers are sicker and miss more work time than non-smokers!

I agree with you that no one can legislate health issues. That said, I would *never* hire a smoker to work in my dental clinic!

So, consume all of the mayonnaise and french fries you desire.

The only folks it will affect are those paying your medical bills.

Lastly, hats off to Tan Holdings, which is arduously promoting the “smoke-free work-place”! Not only are they placing healthy boundaries for their workers, they are, in effect, protecting some people from themselves (the Pogo philosophy), and they are protecting innocent people. The huge bonus for Tan Holdings is that there should be a marked decrease in days missed from work.

One last thought, Mr Bateman: Kissing a smoker is like kissing an ashtray!

**Dr. Alan S. Markoff**  
*President, Toothworks*  
*Chalan Kiya, Saipan*



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in the morning, then partly cloudy with isolated showers in the afternoon. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78	▲88° ▼77°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼77
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲85 ▼78
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲82 ▼71
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲88 ▼78
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲84 ▼76

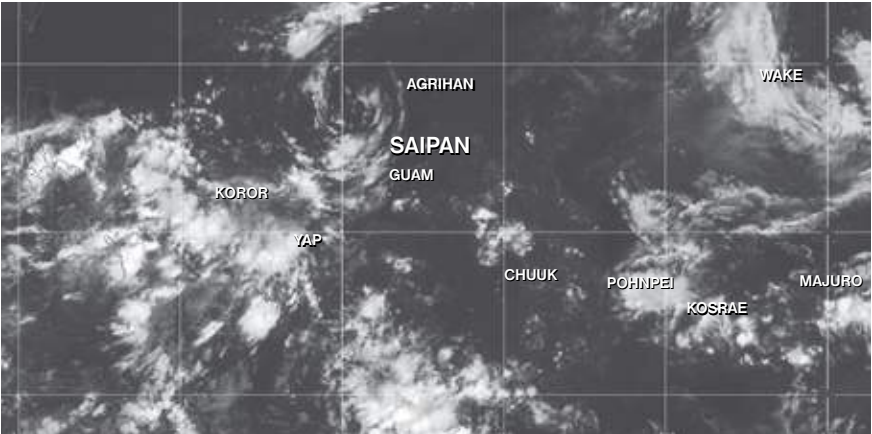
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲57 ▼46
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲86 ▼76
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼80
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲83 ▼73
London	Rain	▲68 ▼52
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲86 ▼64
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼78
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲58 ▼47
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼76
New York	Partly Sunny	▲86 ▼70
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼73
Paris	Cloudy	▲68 ▼53
Pusan	Cloudy	▲86 ▼69
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲88 ▼65
Salem	Cloudy	▲81 ▼59
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲68 ▼56
Seoul	Cloudy	▲80 ▼67
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲73 ▼72
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲73 ▼72

### Tides

Saipan Harbor		
1:27AM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
6:13AM Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
1:57PM Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
9:17PM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



**PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 2008**  
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An upper-level low is centered west of the Marianas at 15N142E. An upper-level trough extends southward from the low to 2N138E. Upper-level divergence associated with the trough and circulation is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms west of the Marianas between 11N and 16N from 141E to 144E north of Yap and Koror within 100 miles of a line extending eastward from 10N144E to 10N148E and south of Yap between 5N and 8N from 137E to 142E. A monsoon trough southwest of Koror runs southeastward from a circulation centered near 4N130E to EQ136E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms can be found within 125 miles of a line stretching northward from 3N130E to 7N130E. A surface trough extends northward from EQ144E to 6N144E. Convergence near and east of the trough is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms well southwest of Chuuk or within 150 miles of a line running northwestward from EQ149E to 6N144E. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over the Marshall Islands within an area bounded by a line from 12N163E to 7N163E to 5N165E to 5N177E to 6N177E back to 12N163E. A cold front draped along 25N between 135E and 165E is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms within 100 miles of a line extending northeastward from 22N135E to 25N141E. Another upper-level low centered near 20N172E is mainly inactive but extensive high cloud cover and a few thunderstorms associated with the low can be found within an area bounded by a line from 25N160E to 12N170E to 15N180 to 25N180 to 25N175E to 18N173E to 25N169E back to 25N160E.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:51AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:51AM	6:52 PM
Saturday	5:52AM	6:52 PM
Sunday	5:52AM	6:52 PM
Monday	5:52AM	6:52 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:34AM	7:09PM
Friday	6:42AM	8:04PM
Saturday	7:46AM	8:53PM
Sunday	8:46AM	9:37PM
Monday	9:41AM	10:16PM

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS  
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS  
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS  
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI  
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE  
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

### CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

### REQUIREMENTS

#### For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

#### For announcements:

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
<b>Saipan-Rota</b> CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	<b>Rota-Saipan</b> CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
<b>Saipan-Guam</b> CO9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6 CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	<b>Guam-Saipan</b> CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Narita</b> NW 078 8:55am 2:00pm Daily via Nagoya  NW 075 4:45pm 7:25pm Daily	<b>Narita-Saipan</b> NW 076 10:15am 2:55pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:30am+1 Daily via Nagoya
<b>Saipan-Osaka</b> NW 083 4:20pm 7:05pm Daily	<b>Osaka-Saipan</b> NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Nagoya</b> NW 078 8:55am 11:35am Daily	<b>Nagoya-Saipan</b> NW 077 9:00pm 1:30am+1 Daily
<b>Saipan-Manila</b> CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6 CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3	<b>Manila-Saipan</b> CO 890 9:15am 2:55pm 6 CO 890 11:45am 5:35pm 3
<b>Saipan-Seoul</b> OZ 604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	<b>Seoul-Saipan</b> OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
<b>Saipan-Busan</b> OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7	<b>Busan-Saipan</b> OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
<b>Guam-Manila</b> CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror  CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	<b>Manila-Guam</b> CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 110 10:20pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
<b>Saipan-Guanzhou</b> CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6	<b>Guanzhou-Saipan</b> CZ 3007 8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5
<b>Guam-Hongkong</b> CO 909 6:40pm 9:25pm 1,5	<b>Hongkong-Guam</b> CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5
<b>Guam-Rota</b> CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	<b>Rota-Guam</b> CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)	

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily				FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily				FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily				<b>Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**</b>			
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily				FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily				FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily				FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily				FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily				FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily				FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily				FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily				FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily							
FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily							



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



# Citi helps prepare Guam students for college

The Citi Foundation granted \$15,000 to Guam Community College to assist in its mission of making college accessible to everyone and to continue the Summer Bridge Program.

With the Citi Foundation grant, 20 high school seniors are receiving academic instruction in English, reading and math. The 2008 Summer Bridge Program runs from June 16 –27, 2008. The two-week program also provides workshops on college financial aid, career exploration, team building exercises, cultural diversity and a personal money management session conducted by a Citi volunteer.

Madhu Seshadri, Citi Guam’s corporate country officer/country business manager, expressed his keen support for gaining higher education and reducing the barriers to college.

“The personal and professional success of our youth have a tremendous impact on our island’s future economic landscape. There are numerous opportunities for Guam’s growth in the coming years with the military expansion,” said Ses-

hadri. “We at Citi are passionate about bridging the gap to college, increasing awareness of career choices and improving young people’s understanding of personal money management. We are pleased to partner with the Guam Community College in preparing our youth for success.”

Dr. Michelle Santos, GCC Dean of Technology and Student Services, said: “Guam Community College is pleased with this new partnership established with the Citi Foundation. We are excited to join together to contribute to increased opportunities for our youth and to make our community a better place. The impact on the community is a better-educated society and a stronger workforce particularly in light of the impending military buildup on Guam.”

The Citi Foundation focuses its giving on microfinance and microentrepreneurship, which helps individuals become economically self-sufficient; Additional information can be found at <http://www.citigroupfoundation.com/>. (Citi)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

On behalf of the Citi Foundation, Citi Guam representatives present a \$15,000 check to Guam Community College on June 23 for the 2008 Summer Bridge Program. From left, Lolita C. Reyes, GCC Asst Director Development & Alumni Relations; Connie C. Moral, Community Relations, Citibank; Vivian Duke Webb, H.R. Director, Citibank; Madhu Seshadri, CCO/Country Business Manager, Citi Guam; Mary Y. Okada, GCC President, Ray Somera, GCC Vice President of Academic Affairs; Elvie Tyler, GCC Director Project AIM; Esther Q. Yanger, Associate Dean, GCC.

# NMC CREES to host free 2-day aquaculture workshop

To further explore business opportunities that take advantage of the CNMI’s vast water resources, the Northern Marianas College–Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service is sponsoring a free “Opportunities in Aquaculture” workshop slated for July 10 and 11.

The two-day workshop aims to introduce various economic opportunities that have not been tapped or fully developed in the CNMI. Topics will include global shrimp farming opportunities, aquaculture biosecurity, artificial propagation of marine finfish, culturing coral reef species, import and export requirements, tips on the permitting process, tips on writing a business plan for an aquaculture venture, securing venture financing, and more.

Sponsored through a grant from the Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture, which is one of five regional

aquaculture centers in the United States established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the workshop will also feature renowned field experts and scientists. These include Dr. Shaun Moss, the director of the shrimp program at the Oceanic Institute; Dr. Hui Gong, aquaculture development specialist from the University of Guam; Clyde Tamaru, aquaculture specialist from the University of Hawaii’s Sea Grant College Program; Cleto Otoshi and Dustin Moss, shrimp program research associates at the Oceanic Institute. Several local experts and representatives from local regulatory agencies will deliver presentations.

The “Opportunities in Aquaculture” workshop will be held at the World Resort from 8am to 4pm on July 10 and 11. Those interested in attending are encouraged to register as soon as possible by calling NMC CREES at 234-5498 Ext 1707. (NMC)



# Dong-A TV filming on Saipan

Korea’s Dong-A TV is filming on Saipan from July 2 – 6 for a program called “Shopping and the City,” a newly launched cable TV program that focuses on the “shopping” side of overseas travel as well as a reality show that shows the happenings during a trip taken by a TV celebrity/model.

Saipan will be featured in three 30-minute programs with an estimated value of \$360,000. Dong-A TV is shown in 8,500,000 households. While on Saipan, they will

film the tourist attractions as well as golfing, spas and shopping.

“Our Korean arrival numbers continue to rise and we appreciate the opportunity to have the island of Saipan featured in Korea,” said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio. “Korea has quickly become a strong market for our islands and this additional exposure will allow more Korean travelers—especially the young women in 20s and 30s—to see the beauty of our island.” (MVA)



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**  
**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**  
**DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING**  
Second Floor Afetria Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950  
Telephone no. (670) 236-0956/0957 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0995

**LABOR DEPARTMENT**  
**NOTICE OF HEARINGS**  
**PENDING AGENCY CASES**

**July 3, 2008 First Notice**  
**July 7, 2008 Second Notice**

Notice is hereby given to the persons listed below to appear at the Hearing Office, Department of Labor, Second Floor, Afetria Square Building, San Antonio, on the date and at the time listed below. Your claims will be heard at that time or continued to a date certain. Please bring any documentation necessary to the resolution of your claims or defenses to claims against you. If you fail to appear, or fail to bring documentation, your claims or defenses may be dismissed, and an administrative order may be entered against you.

THESE HEARINGS ARE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CLARIFYING DEPARTMENT RECORDS WITH RESPECT TO PENDING CLAIMS.  
✓ If you have already transferred and you are working under a one-year contract and you have no other claims, you do not need to attend these hearings.  
✓ If your claims have been heard, settled, or withdrawn, or you do not wish to pursue your claim, you do not need to appear for the hearings on the schedule below.

Agency cases are brought by the Director of Labor and may involve claims on behalf of individual employees. The Director of Labor may dismiss an agency case at any time.

Case No.	Employee	Employer	Hearing Date	Time
07-084-08	Abiendo, Alicia Q.	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC	July 16, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-084-08	Alquetra, Marita P.	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC	July 16, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-084-08	Apit, Pawad E.	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC	July 16, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-084-08	Auriada, Mia V.	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC	July 16, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-084-08	Banola, Teresita	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC	July 16, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-084-08	Bautista, Estellore O.	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC	July 16, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-084-08	Blascan, Emily L.	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC	July 16, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-084-08	Bordios, Liezel M.	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC	July 16, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-088-10	Borjal, M. Lani P.	Santos, Jesus and Lorylinda	July 15, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-084-08	Buzon, Clovita S.	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC	July 16, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-084-08	Cabel, Isabel P.	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC	July 16, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-048-03	Cabinilla, Clarita C.	I Mart	July 15, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-084-08	Campos, Myrna	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC	July 16, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-049-03	Cao, Tingwei	Cepeda, Maria B.	July 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-084-08	Casilhan, Veronica	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC	July 16, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-088-10	Celemente, Rosario J.	Santos, Jesus and Lorylinda	July 15, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-049-03	Chen, Chunqin	Cepeda, Maria B.	July 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-084-08	Dela Cruz, Danilo R.	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC	July 16, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-084-08	Domingo, Anabel M.	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC	July 16, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-088-10	Espanola, Elma F.	Santos, Jesus and Lorylinda	July 15, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-084-08	Fajardo, Brigido J. Jr.	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC	July 16, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-051-03	Fang, Guohua	Sablan, Roland	July 15, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-049-03	Fang, Jianming	Cepeda, Maria B.	July 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-049-03	Fang, Yi Lin	Cepeda, Maria B.	July 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-084-08	Flores, Roderick F.	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC	July 16, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-084-08	Gestole, Marites G.	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC	July 16, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-084-08	Graneta, Magno	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC	July 16, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-050-03	Guan, Jinshan	Perfect Corporation	July 15, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-088-10	He, Ai Qin	Santos, Jesus and Lorylinda	July 15, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-084-08	Isip, Nila A.	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC	July 16, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-084-08	Labasan, Mary A.B.	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC	July 16, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-048-03	Ladrangan, Ave S.	I Mart	July 15, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-071-05	Leung, Kuan Y.	Freedom, Inc. and Dragon, Inc.	July 15, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-051-03	Li, Li	Sablan, Roland	July 15, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-050-03	Li, Meizhen	Perfect Corporation	July 15, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-088-10	Li, Xiaojuan	Santos, Jesus and Lorylinda	July 15, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-084-08	Li, Yehong	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC	July 16, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-049-03	Li, Zhicheng	Cepeda, Maria B.	July 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-049-03	Lian, Wanlong	Cepeda, Maria B.	July 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-049-03	Lin, Chun Mei	Cepeda, Maria B.	July 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-050-03	Lin, Qingyun	Perfect Corporation	July 15, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-049-03	Liu, Yuzhu	Cepeda, Maria B.	July 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-088-10	Liwanag, Leonora	Santos, Jesus and Lorylinda	July 15, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-084-08	Malaca, Norida G.	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC	July 16, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-084-08	Maldonado, Pedro M.	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC	July 16, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-084-08	Mananggit, Benedicto A.	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC	July 16, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-084-08	Martinez, Larry S.	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC	July 16, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-084-08	Marzan, Wilma D.	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC	July 16, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-084-08	Melindo, Christopher Jr.	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC	July 16, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-084-08	Meneses, Emily C.	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC	July 16, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-084-08	Mercado, Anastacia	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC	July 16, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-071-05	Min, Leung Hu	Freedom, Inc. and Dragon, Inc.	July 15, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-084-08	Montecarlo, Bernarda	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC	July 16, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-084-08	Panglila, Editha F.	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC	July 16, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-084-08	Qiu, Fang Hua	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC	July 16, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-052-03	Reyes, Marissa S.	Ceron Heavy Equipment and Parts Luna, Raymond DLC	July 15, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-084-08	Reyes, May L.	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC	July 16, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-084-08	Rivera, Jeannie J.	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC	July 16, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-088-10	Serrano, Amelia C.	Santos, Jesus and Lorylinda	July 15, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-049-03	Shi, Desheng	Cepeda, Maria B.	July 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-049-03	Shi, Wenfang	Cepeda, Maria B.	July 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-049-03	Shou, Jianjiang	Cepeda, Maria B.	July 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-084-08	Sumpay, Rolland	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC	July 16, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-084-08	Tadeo, Luzviminda S.	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC	July 16, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-084-08	Tapdasan, Jeffrey T.	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC	July 16, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-074-06	Uveta, Ruel C.	Duenas, Georgia	July 15, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-084-08	Villafuerte, Precilla M.	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC	July 16, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-084-08	Villanueva, Marina M.	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC	July 16, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-084-08	Viloria, Darwin F.	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC	July 16, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-051-03	Weng, Qinghua	Sablan, Roland	July 15, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-049-03	Wu, Yufeng	Cepeda, Maria B.	July 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-050-03	Zheng, Jiang Ming	Perfect Corporation	July 15, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-051-03	Zheng, Jinzhang	Sablan, Roland	July 15, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-049-03	Zheng, Ying	Cepeda, Maria B.	July 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-049-03	Zhou, Guojun	Cepeda, Maria B.	July 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
07-088-10	Zou, Xiu Ping	Santos, Jesus and Lorylinda	July 15, 2008	1:00 p.m.



# Island Snapshots



## HOTSHOTS

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Clyde Norita and Firefighter 2 Anthony Babauta gather for a photo with the CNMI's 20 Hotshot crews during Monday's press conference at the DPS central office in Susupe.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



## CITI DONATION

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Some of the 2008 Summer Bridge Program students join Guam Community College and Citi Guam representatives for the symbolic check presentation on June 23, 2008. Front row with the Citi banner are, from left, Mary Y. Okada, GCC president, and Madhu Seshadri, CCO/Country Business Manager, Citi Guam.



## NEW HANDGUNS

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Clyde Norita and PO2 Jason Tarkong check out the 17 Smith & Wesson 9mm handguns donated by the Guam Department of Agriculture Division of Aquatic and Wildlife to DPS during Tuesday's press conference at the DPS central office in Susupe.



## NEW ROTARY OFFICERS

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Attorney Timothy Bellas facilitates the oath taking of the new Rotary Club of Saipan officers and directors during the installation lunch gathering at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovannis restaurant Tuesday afternoon.



## NURSES' WEEK PROCLAMATION

Lt. Governor Timothy Villagomez poses for a group photo with CNMI Nursing Association officers and members during the proclamation signing of the CNMI Nurses' Week at the Governor's conference room on Capital Hill Sunday. This year's theme is "Nurses: Diverse Roles, One Mission."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



## BEACH CLEANUP

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Saipan Unity Lions Club pose for a picture after their monthly trash pick-up last Sunday, June 29, 2008, from the 13 Fishermen's Monument down to the Quarter Master intersection on Beach Road. From left, Melvin Cabrera, 2nd VP; Tony Benavente, president; Boyet Escobar and Joe Digno, Treasurer. Also shown are two of the eight trash cans donated by the Club for the beach area.



## REUNION MASS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Marianas High School Class of 1988 pose with Fr. Jesse Reyes, after their 20th Year Reunion Mass Celebration held at Kristo Rai Church on Friday, June 27, 2008.



## DEQ BOOTH

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Matthew Blanco, coral reef intern for the Division of Environmental Quality, facilitates the Pride Challenge game board with participants Kiyanna Tenorio, 13, and Angeliya Lizama, 13. Both received a free tattoo for answering correctly. The environmental agencies will be at the Liberation Carnival grounds every night until July 6.



# Business

## Oil ends at new record near \$141

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Oil closed at a new record near \$141 a barrel Tuesday on worries about tight supply and mounting tensions in the Middle East. In the U.S., prices at the gas pump edged to their highest point yet.

Crude prices resumed their advance as the head of the International Energy Agency said the world is experiencing its “third oil price shock,” comparing the effects of today’s prices with the

oil crises that began with the 1973 Arab oil embargo and the 1979 revolution in Iran.

IEA chief Nobuo Tanaka added that OPEC is pumping oil at record levels and other producers “are working at full throttle.” His comments reinforced the IEA’s latest prediction that global supplies will remain pinched despite record prices and falling demand in the U.S. and Europe. “Day-to-day market noise

can be driven by speculators,” Tanaka said. “High oil prices are driven by fundamentals.”

Meanwhile, during a visit to Berlin, U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson said “there don’t seem to be any obvious short-term solutions” to soaring oil prices.

Light, sweet crude for August delivery rose 97 cents to settle at a new high of \$140.97 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Prices at one point rose as high as \$143.33, just 34 cents shy

of Monday’s trading record.

Ongoing tension in the Middle East—a concern that has helped fuel oil’s recent rise—continued to weigh on traders’ minds Tuesday.

ABC News quoted an unnamed senior Pentagon official as saying there is an “increasing likelihood” that Israel will strike Iran’s nuclear facilities before the end of the year. Such an attack could prompt Iran to retaliate, potentially disrupting oil

supplies in the strategically vital Persian Gulf.

State Department spokesman Tom Casey said he had “absolutely no information that would substantiate” the ABC report when asked about it at a briefing.

Jim Ritterbusch, president of energy consultancy Ritterbusch and Associates in Galena, Ill., called the news report “more of the same” but acknowledged it was having an effect on energy market psychology.

## June car sales plummet for nearly all automakers

**DETROIT (AP)**—Nearly all the major automakers reported steep sales declines for June, but for General Motors at least there was consolation: Toyota, its leading international competition, had it worse.

Even Toyota, with its flexible, efficient factories, couldn’t make the shift from trucks to cars as quickly as American drivers. Its sales for June shrank 21 percent.

So the Japanese automaker fell short of some analysts’ predictions that it would overtake GM as the U.S. sales leader. June sales at GM had a still-dramatic drop of about 18 percent.

The overall market fell 18.3 percent, according to Autodata

Corp. It was the worst June for the industry in 17 years, said Jesse Torpak, chief industry analyst for auto information site Edmunds.com, who predicted more misery ahead.

Torpak said automakers simply did not react quickly enough to the staggering rise of gas prices.

“I think the gas price rise that we’ve seen from March through June was so fast and so dramatic that even Toyota, which is known to really forecast consumer demand, was caught off guard,” he said.

The shrinking market continued its shift toward more fuel-efficient models. Some automakers were caught with too few of the smaller cars.

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Visa rescinds debit card rule

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Consumers can now use Visa debit cards for smaller purchases without entering a personal identification number, the same way they can skip signing receipts. Visa said Tuesday it is no longer requiring merchants to treat its debit cards differently when customers use them as PIN-debit cards, as opposed to signature cards. The move prompted the Justice Department to drop an anti-trust investigation of the practice. Visa has allowed banks to permit merchants to waive the signature requirement when customers use Visa debit cards, usually on small purchases below \$25, the department said. But Visa has prohibited banks from allowing merchants to waive the entry of a PIN if a customer chooses that route.

#### Starbucks closing 600 stores in the US

**SEATTLE (AP)**—Starbucks Corp. said Tuesday it will close 600 company-operated stores in the next year, up dramatically from its previous plan for 100 closures, a sign the coffee shop operator continues to struggle with the faltering U.S. economy and its own rapid expansion. Seventy percent of the stores slated for closure had opened after the start of 2006, the company said in a statement. To put it another way, Starbucks is closing 19 percent of all U.S. company-operated stores that opened in the last two years, Chief Financial Officer Pete Bocian said during a conference call. About 12,000 workers, or 7 percent of Starbucks’ global work force, will be affected by the closings, which are expected to take place between late July and the middle of 2009.

#### R.I. high court overturns lead paint verdict

**PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)**—Rhode Island’s Supreme Court on Tuesday overturned a first-in-the-nation jury verdict that found three former lead paint companies responsible for creating a public nuisance, rejecting a closely watched case that had been seen as a bellwether for potential suits across the country. The 4-0 decision ends the nearly decade-long court fight and spares the companies from potentially billions in cleanup costs for hundreds of thousands of contaminated homes. Rhode Island was the first state to successfully sue former makers of lead pigment and paint, which can cause learning disabilities, brain damage and other health problems in children.



A worker affixes sheeting to the side of a new condominium building being built in Louisville, Ky., Tuesday, July 1, 2008. AP

## Construction spending drops in May

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Construction spending fell in May for the 11th time in the past year as a continuing slump in housing offset strength in nonresidential building.

The Commerce Department reported Tuesday that construction spending dropped 0.4 percent in May, slightly less than had been expected. There was strength in spending on hotels and office buildings but continued declines in housing, which has been in a slump for two years.

Residential construction dropped 1.6 percent in May, the 25th decline out of the past 26 months.

## Wall Street zigzags on first day of 3rd quarter

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Wall Street began the third quarter with an erratic session and modest gain Tuesday after a mix of news made it clear the country is still deep in economic problems but may have some positive trends—including some better than expected sales for General Motors Corp.

Prices rose early in the session, then turned sharply lower for much of the day and then recovered in late afternoon. The uneven performance wasn’t sur-

prising—some bargain hunting was to be expected after a dismal first half, and in particular, a dismal June. The session brought more discouraging news for investors: Oil rose again toward record high levels, a report showed that U.S. manufacturers are still under duress and Ford Motor Co. said its June sales tumbled. This all raised the market’s fears that the economy—still reeling from soaring commodities prices and the

even bigger 1.6 percent gains in both April and March.

The strength in May reflected a big increase in spending on hotels and motels and a smaller advance in office construction. These gains helped to offset declines in spending on shopping centers and amusement and recreation centers.

Economists believe that strength seen recently in nonresidential construction will not last. They are concerned that a severe credit crunch occurring as banks tightening standards in the wake of rising mortgage defaults will begin to squeeze nonresidential building projects as well.

lingering credit crisis—is not any closer to turning around.

Yet GM’s sales, while falling 18.2 percent during June, came in above analysts’ forecasts, retaining Detroit’s lead over Toyota Motor Corp. and sending the automaker’s shares higher. GM’s news was in sharp contrast to the dismal results reported earlier by Ford Motor Co., where a 27.9 percent plunge in sales for the month sent the company’s stock to its lowest point in decades.

### STOCK Portfolio

#### ASIAN MARKETS

**AUSTRALIA**  
5,211.600  
Down 49.500  
(-0.94%)

**HONG KONG**  
21,585.87  
Down 516.14  
(-2.34%)

**TOKYO**  
13,481.38  
Down 62.98  
(-0.46%)

**MANILA**  
2,393.90  
Down 21.35  
(-0.88%)

**SEOUL**  
1,623.6  
Down 42.86  
(-2.57%)

**JAKARTA**  
2,369.6609  
Down 9.147  
(-0.38%)

**K. LUMPUR**  
1,174.83  
Down 11.74  
(-0.99%)

**SINGAPORE**  
2,893.25  
Down 13.54  
(-0.47%)

**BANGKOK**  
759.27  
Down 9.32  
(-1.21%)

**LEADING INDICATORS**

**DOW**  
11,382.26  
+32.25

**NASDAQ**  
2,304.97  
0.00

**S&P**  
1,284.91  
0.00

#### MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.0405
British Pound	0.5022
Canadian Dollar	1.0194
Chinese Renmbi	6.864
Euro	0.6321
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7995
Indian Rupee	43.318
Indonesian Rupiah	9225
Japanese Yen	106.13
Malaysian Ringgit	3.274
New Zealand Dollar	1.3178
Philippine Peso	45.185
Singapore Dollar	1.3617
South Korean Won	1036
Swiss Franc	1.0175
Taiwan Dollar	30.37
Thailand Baht	33.38

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press



# Nation

## Letter writer boasts of killing pregnant soldier

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. (AP)—A pregnant soldier lay dead in the bathtub. Reportedly scrawled on the motel-room mirror in lipstick was a crosshair design—the same symbol contained in a letter that arrived at the local newspaper four days later.

"The following is to inform that I am responsible for the dead body," the typewritten letter read. "It was a master piece. I confess, that I have killed many times before in several states,

but now I will start using my role-model's signature. There will be many more to come."

At the bottom was the same circle-and-cross drawing used a generation ago by San Francisco's infamous Zodiac Killer.

While police dismiss the notion there's a serial killer on the loose, the letter now appears to be an important piece of evi-

dence in the investigation into the death last month of Army Spc. Megan Touma, a 23-year-old soldier at Fort Bragg.



Touma

Investigators are calling the case a homicide, but they say they have not established the cause of death and have offered no motive.

"We're pursuing every lead," said Chris Grey, a spokesman for the Army's Criminal

Investigation Command. "We want to find out exactly what happened to Spc. Touma."

Authorities said they have identified a "person of interest" in the case, a soldier studying psychological warfare at Fort Bragg. Fayetteville police spokesman Lt. David Sportsman said the soldier is cooperating with investigators and has not been detained.

"We're not concerned about it," Sportsman said. "If the person flees, we'll go get 'em."

## Gen. Clark won't back off critique of McCain

WASHINGTON (AP)—Retired Gen. Wesley Clark rejected suggestions he apologize Tuesday for saying John McCain's medal-winning military service does not qualify him for the White House. Elaborating, Clark said a president must have judgment, not merely courage and character.

Barack Obama, the Democratic presidential hopeful, said Clark's comments had been inartful. But McCain's campaign

judged them worse, and worked to stoke the controversy.

One ally of the Republican presidential contender accused Obama of "winking and nodding" when he should be condemning Clark and his comments. "This is now about Obama, not Wesley Clark," added Orson Swindle on a conference call with reporters organized by the Republican presidential candidate's campaign.

Swindle, a retired colonel and—like McCain—prisoner of war in Vietnam, added that Obama should tell his surrogates to "knock this crap off."

Clark set off the controversy on Sunday when he said McCain's wartime experience as a Navy pilot and his command of an air squadron in peacetime was did not provide him with experience needed to become president.

"I don't think riding in a fighter plane and getting shot down is a qualification to be president," he added at the time.

McCain frequently emphasizes his military service as he campaigns for the White House.

Obama, who did not serve in the military, frequently cites his opposition to the 2003 invasion of Iraq as evidence of the judgment needed in a commander in chief.

## Ex-convict suspected of killing 8 captured

GRANITE CITY, Ill. (AP)—Police and FBI agents captured an ex-convict suspected of killing eight people in two states as he smoked a cigarette outside of a southwestern Illinois bar Tuesday night.

Nicholas T. Sheley, who was the subject of a multi-state manhunt after authorities linked him to the deaths of eight people in Illinois and Missouri, was arrested around



Sheley

7 p.m. outside of Bindy's, a Granite City bar, said bartender Katie Ronk.

Sheley ordered a glass of water and went to the bathroom before another bartender and customer recognized him, Ronk said. The customer, Gary Range, said he left the bar and notified a police officer parked in the lot outside.

"I told (the police officer) the description and the officer said, 'That's him.' He got on the radio and eventually there were police all over the place," Range said.

Illinois State Police, the FBI, and the St. Louis Major Crimes Task Force arrested the 28-year-old without incident, said state police Sgt. Thomas J. Burek. He was being held at the Granite City police department, a department spokeswoman said.

Tim Lewis, the police chief in the St. Louis suburb of Festus, Mo., said publicity from news reports paid off after

6 p.m. when a number of Granite City residents reported seeing Sheley.

"He was desperate and he gave up without a fight," Lewis said.

"He looks rough. He's had a rough two days," he said.

The FBI on Tuesday launched a manhunt for Sheley, who they warned should be considered armed and dangerous. Among those authorities believe Sheley killed were a 93-year-old man, a child and a couple whose blood-soaked dogs were found roaming a motel parking lot.



### PROJECT DELAYS

This 2005 file artist's rendering provided by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey shows the planned transit hub designed by Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava for the World Trade Center site in New York. The World Trade Center's owner on Monday, June 30, 2008, proposed scrapping the schedule and budget for the prolonged rebuilding of the site of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, saying nearly every project is delayed and over budget and that previous estimates "are not realistic." The transit hub, once budgeted at \$2.2 billion, presents some of the greatest rebuilding obstacles and now estimates for it have soared as high as \$3.4 billion.

## Video shows woman dying on Brooklyn hospital floor

NEW YORK (AP)—City hospital officials agreed in court Tuesday to implement reforms at a psychiatric ward where surveillance footage showed a woman falling from her chair, writhing on the floor and dying as workers failed to help for more than an hour.

Esmin Green, 49, had been waiting in the emergency room

for nearly 24 hours when she toppled from her seat at 5:32 a.m. on June 19, falling face down on the floor.

She was dead by 6:35, when someone on the medical staff, flagged down by a person in the waiting room, finally approached, nudged Green with her foot, and gently prodded her shoulder, as if to wake her. The staffer then left

and returned with someone wearing a white lab coat who examined her and summoned help.

Until the staffer's appearance, Green's collapse barely caused a ripple. Other patients waiting a few feet away didn't react. Security guards and a member of the hospital's staff appeared to notice her prone body at least three times, but made no visible attempt to see

if she needed help.

One guard didn't even leave his chair, rolling it around a corner to stare at the body, then rolling away a few moments later.

Green, who had been involuntarily committed the previous morning, and had waited overnight for a bed, stopped moving about half an hour after she collapsed.

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Bush: Housing deal possible with 'less politics'

NORTH LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—President Bush expressed confidence Tuesday he will reach a deal with Congress on a housing-rescue plan, but only if lawmakers show "less politics." The president's comments came as many homeowners are saddled with mortgage payments they can't afford and face foreclosure. The Senate is considering a \$300 billion plan to back cheaper loans for people who risk losing their home, but that measure has stalled for now. "I think we can get us a bill," Bush said. "But it's going to require less politics and more focus on keeping our minds on who we need to help, and that's the homeowner."

#### Calif. smoky haze causing spike in doctor visits

FRESNO, Calif. (AP)—California's raging wildfires have created a smoky haze so stifling that doctors in the state's landlocked farm country say their waiting rooms have been crowding with patients struggling to breathe amid the soot-laden air. Hundreds of firefighters were working overtime Tuesday to beat back blazes burning from the western edge of the Sierra Nevada to coastal mountains near Big Sur, where authorities enforced new, mandatory evacuations along a roughly 15-mile stretch of Highway 1. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger deployed 200 National Guard troops to fire lines Tuesday to relieve weary crews, U.S. Forest Service officials said.

#### Ex-death row inmate in Tennessee to be released

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—A former Tennessee death row inmate is scheduled to be freed from prison on bail for the first time in nearly 23 years. Paul House was sentenced to death for the slaying of a young mother. He is being retried in October in the 1985 slaying of Carolyn Muncey after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled he would not have been convicted based on evidence that emerged years after his trial. The Tennessee Department of Correction confirmed Tuesday that House would be released. House's mother says she was able to make her son's \$100,000 bail and will pick her son up in Nashville on Wednesday. House has multiple sclerosis and uses a wheelchair.



# Asia

## Mongolian capital in state of emergency

**ULAN BATOR, Mongolia** (AP)—The president declared a four-day state of emergency in Mongolia's capital early Wednesday after protesters stormed the headquarters of the ruling party, alleging fraud in weekend parliamentary elections.

President Nambaryn Enkhbayar's decree allowed police to use force in dealing with the thousands of rock-throwing protesters who thronged the headquarters of the Mongolian

People's Revolutionary Party and set it on fire. The crowd had not dispersed despite repeated volleys of tear gas, rubber bullets and water cannons.

"Police will use necessary force to crack down on criminals who are looting private and government property," said Munkhorgil, the minister of justice and home affairs, who like some Mongolians goes by one name. Ulan Bator was also placed under a 10 p.m. to 8 a.m.

curfew, he said.

The crowd thinned slightly after the emergency declaration, though some protesters had begun looting paintings from an art gallery and televisions from government offices. Others vandalized parked cars.

Enkhbayar, a ruling party member, acknowledged the protesters' complaints over results of the election—centered on how to share the country's mineral wealth—but appealed for calm.

## RP rebels kill 2 soldiers, torch tower

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—Communist rebels killed two soldiers in a public market and torched a cellular phone tower in the southern Philippines as the latest flare-up in the 40-year-old insurgency showed no sign of abating, officials said Tuesday.

New People's Army guerrillas shot dead the troops in Compostela Valley province's Nabuturan township, snatching the men's rifles before fleeing on a motorcycle, said Chief Superintendent Andres G. Caro II, the regional police chief.

In nearby Davao Oriental province's Banganga township, some

30 rebels attacked a Globe Telecom phone tower and set the generator on fire, said Maj. Armand Rico, a military spokesman.

The guerrillas have been attacking Globe Telecom sites for its refusal to pay "revolutionary taxes," military officials have said.

The assaults came as National Police chief Avelino I. Razon Jr. ordered all 17 police regional offices to step up security amid the rebels' recent wave of attacks.

On Monday, the army said troops backed by helicopter gunships were pursuing communist rebels who attacked a town hall and two police sta-

tions in the south, sparking two days of sporadic battles that have killed at least 15 guerrillas and two policemen on Siargao island and in nearby Surigao del Norte province, army spokesman Lt. Col. Romeo Brawner said.

## 33 militants are killed in Afghanistan

**KABUL, Afghanistan** (AP)—Helicopters and a bomber attacked insurgents massing in eastern Afghanistan under cover of darkness, killing an estimated 33 people, the U.S.-led coalition said Tuesday.

Reconnaissance aircraft spotted "large groupings" of insurgents armed with heavy machine-guns and rocket-propelled grenades on Monday night in Khost province, the coalition said.

"After positively identifying the militants, coalition forces engaged them with attack helicopters and a close air support bomber, killing approximately 33 militants," spokesman 1st Lt. Nathan Perry said.

Fighting between militants and security forces is intensifying in the southern half of Afghanistan. More than 2,100 people died in the violence in the first six months, according to an Associated Press tally.

or even when it would start. The talks follow informal talks held in early May in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen that ended with an offer from Beijing for future discussions. Samdhong Rinpoche, prime minister of the self-proclaimed Tibetan government-in-exile based in Dharmasala, India, said that envoys Lodi Gyari and Kelsang Gyaltsen would represent the Dalai Lama.

### Man with knife kills 5 police in Shanghai

**BEIJING** (AP)—A jobless man bent on revenge and armed with a butcher knife stormed a police station in Shanghai on Tuesday, slashing and stabbing officers inside and killing at least five, authorities and local media said. The Shanghai Public Security Bureau said in a news release that a 28-year-old man with the surname Yang set a fire outside the building's gate and then rushed inside and began attacking officers. Five officers died after being taken to a hospital, while four other police officers and a security guard were hurt, the statement said.

# World

## Hopes fade for accord in Zimbabwe election crisis

**SHARM EL-SHEIK, Egypt** (AP)—African efforts to encourage a deal between Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe and his opponents showed no results Tuesday, while Mugabe's spokesman defiantly said his boss has no plans to step down and told Western critics they can "go hang."

Zimbabwe's opposition also dampened hopes a coalition government might be negotiated, saying Mugabe had shut the door on talks by going ahead with last week's presidential runoff election

that he won after a campaign tainted by brutal attacks on his political foes.

Some leaders at the African Union summit here had harsh words for Mugabe, producing sharp exchanges during closed-door meetings, participants said.

Vice President Mompoti Merafhe of Botswana said Mugabe's government should not be recognized and Zimbabwe should be barred from AU gatherings. "The outcome of these elections does not confer legitimacy on the government

of President Mugabe," Merafhe said, according to a statement released by his aides.

Officials from Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone also criticized Mugabe, and Zimbabwe's leader responded, said Ismail Ndiye, a delegate from Senegal who was at the session.

"He had a lot to say," Ndiye said, but declined to give any details. An Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesman, Hossam Zaki, said Mugabe spoke for a half hour and lashed out at some African countries who spoke out against him.

## Hezbollah said training Shiite militiamen

**BAGHDAD** (AP)—Hezbollah instructors trained Shiite militiamen at remote camps in southern Iraq until three months ago when they slipped across the border to Iran—presumably to continue instruction on Iranian soil, according to two Shiite lawmakers and a top army officer.

The three Iraqis claim the Lebanese Shiites were also in-

involved in planning some of the most brazen attacks against U.S.-led forces, including the January 2007 raid on a provincial government compound in Karbala in which five Americans died.

The allegations, made in separate interviews with The Associated Press, point not only to an Iranian hand in the Iraq war, but also to Hezbollah's willingness to expand

beyond its Lebanese base and assume a broader role in the struggle against U.S. influence in the Middle East.

All this suggests that Shiite-dominated Iran is waging a proxy war against the United States to secure a dominant role in majority-Shiite Iraq, which has supplanted Lebanon as Tehran's top priority in the Middle East.

## Swedes outraged over e-mail snooping law

**STOCKHOLM, Sweden** (AP)—Swedes may cherish openness and transparency, but not enough to accept a new law giving the government the right to snoop on all e-mails and phone calls crossing the country's borders.

Outrage over the statute has led to 2 million protests—filed by e-mail.

The online petition drive comes as other European Union countries consider granting authorities un-

precedented spying powers over their own citizens amid fears of a mounting terror threat.

"This would have been totally unthinkable before Sept. 11," said Anne Ramberg, secretary-general of the Swedish Bar Association, calling for challenges to the law in Swedish and European courts.

Andreas Hellsten, a 37-year-old engineer, said the new law reminded him of something

the dreaded East German police would have dreamed up had e-mail been around during the Cold War.

"It looks too much like the Stasi," he said. "It is surprising when Sweden passes a law like this."

While supporters say the legislation will help avert terrorist attacks by keeping tabs on suspect communications and financial transfers, opponents say the measures are just too intrusive.



### E-JEEPNEY

Mayor Jejomar Binay of the financial district of Makati city east of Manila, Philippines, waves from the front seat of an E-Jeepney, an innovative electric-powered passenger vehicle, during its inaugural run Tuesday July 1, 2008. Environmentalist group Greenpeace inaugurated the commercial run of the E-Jeepney, the first public transport system of its kind in Southeast Asia, as their answer to rising oil prices and air pollution problems.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### China police to reopen probe into teenager's death

**WENG'AN, China** (AP)—An investigation into the death of a teenage girl will be reopened, state media reported Tuesday, as officials bowed to public anger over an alleged police cover-up in this southwest China town. Police initially determined that the high school student drowned, angering locals who believe she was raped and murdered, perhaps by children of local officials. In response some 30,000 people rampaged through Weng'an on Saturday, torching cars and police headquarters in the town in hilly Guizhou province.

#### Dalai Lama envoys, China to meet in Beijing

**BEIJING** (AP)—Secrecy surrounded the start of talks between envoys of the Dalai Lama and the Chinese government on Tuesday aimed at easing tensions following anti-government riots in Tibet in March. Chinese officials would not say where the meeting would be held, what the agenda was,

## Soviet-era landmark for kids closes

**MOSCOW** (AP)—The same year that Sputnik soared into space saw the launch of another Soviet-era icon that may have loomed larger for generations of Russians: a huge toy store in central Moscow called Detsky Mir, or Children's World.

Fifty years later, the hulking block-long building across from the KGB's notorious Lubyanka headquarters closed Tuesday for major renovations, the latest landmark to be torn down or tattered up in the mall of Moscow.

The toy store, faced in yellowish tile on a sloping square near the Kremlin, was a place of dreams and desire for Soviet children and a crucial resource for parents struggling



People are seen inside the Detsky Mir (Children's World) Department Store in Moscow, Monday, June 30, 2008.

to find them holiday gifts, school supplies and clothing—from ballet slippers to bulky lambswool coats.

"For us, it was a whole world," said Lada Mosharova, 49, who visited Detsky Mir on Monday with her son and her niece, carrying a video camera for an emotional farewell to a

store that was one of her favorite places as a child.

She watched children ride a double-decker carousel that is the centerpiece of the store's main hall, a cavernous space with marble columns, imposing metal light fixtures, and a two-tone frieze depicting rabbits, turtles, swans and squirrels.



# Environment

## Bird Island: Enjoy one of NMI's Marine Protected Areas

Take a hike today. Grab a bottle of water, a friend, and a camera and head out to enjoy one of the CNMI's beautiful Marine Protected Areas. Surprise yourself and take time to visit Bird Island.

The Bird Island lookout is a great place to start and is easily accessible. Head north on Chalan Pale Arnold Road into Marpi and enjoy the stunning drive on the way. This time of year the flametrees that line the road are particularly brilliant and well worth the decision to get to that end of the island. After you pass Banzai Cliff, look for signs directing you to Bird Island Lookout... they lead the way to an exciting, healthful experience.

Bird Island is ideal for watching the birds that make it their home, spotting turtles, and enjoying the cool breeze. Take some photos, absorb the beauty, and get inspired. Time to make your way down!

The hike down to the island, on a scale of 1-10, ranks a 5 in difficulty and takes about 20 minutes.

Before you begin your way down the trail, be sure to get a look at the sign. It gives helpful tips about the Bird Island Sanctuary and draws out the boundaries of the Protected Area. Remember, there is no fishing, no taking, no col-

lecting, and no walking on the reef allowed at Bird Island.

Take your time as you hike down. Watch for hilitai, listen for birds, and pay attention to the trail. The surrounding forest provides shade and the trail is clearly marked. It is steep at points so stay focused on the trail, don't rush, and enjoy!

The beach is excellent for wandering, relaxing, and soaking up Saipan's summer sun. From shore, you can count the brown and black noddies that make Bird Island their home. To cool off, head into the water with your mask and prepare to be amazed. Around rocks

and near shore reef you will find fish of all shapes, sizes and colors. Currents can be strong and unpredictable, so be careful as well. Always have a buddy and stay close to shore. It is recommended that you stay off the island itself as it is home to the birds and their nests. Have fun while being responsible and be safe.

*If you have any questions or would like additional information please contact Brooke Nevitt, Pride Campaign Manager and Education and Outreach Coordinator, Coastal Resources Management Office at 664-8320.*

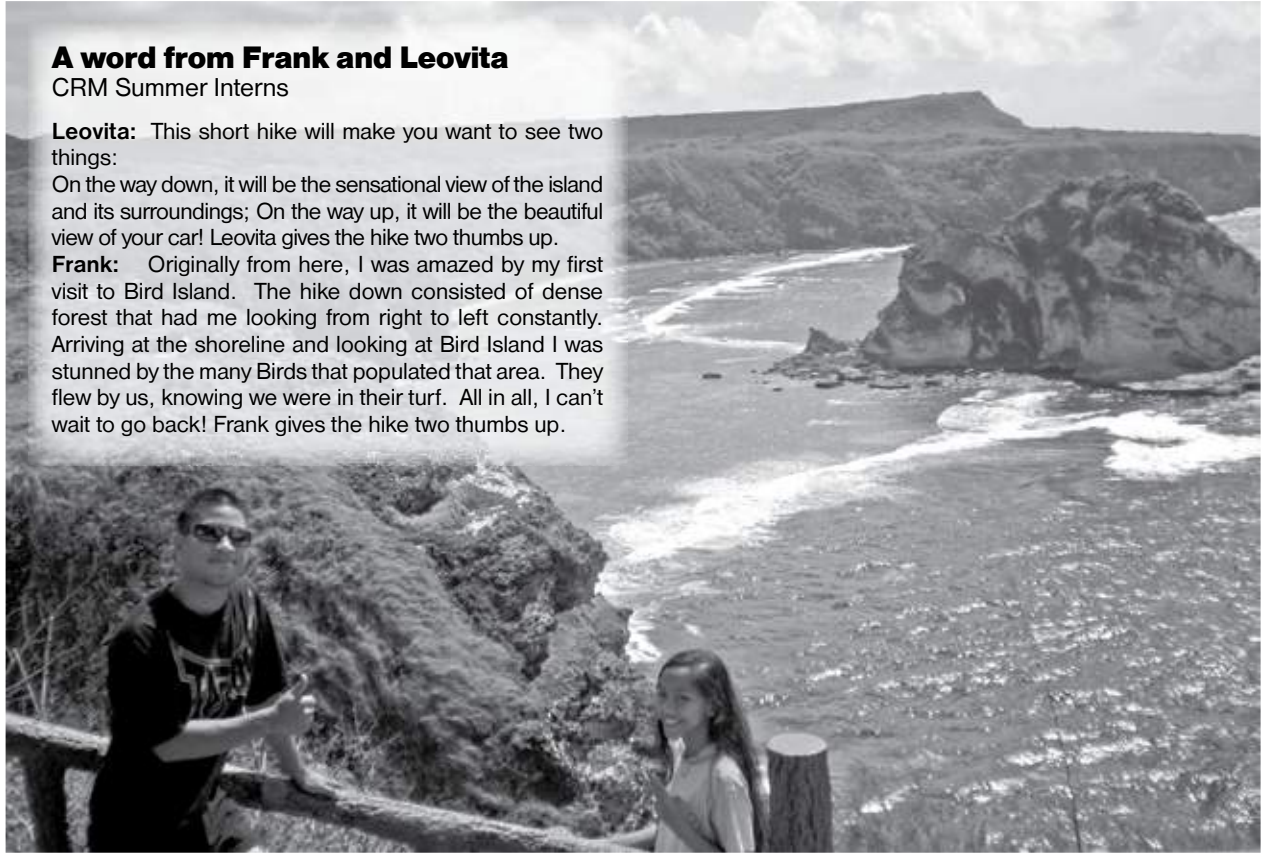


### A word from Frank and Leovita CRM Summer Interns

**Leovita:** This short hike will make you want to see two things:

On the way down, it will be the sensational view of the island and its surroundings; On the way up, it will be the beautiful view of your car! Leovita gives the hike two thumbs up.

**Frank:** Originally from here, I was amazed by my first visit to Bird Island. The hike down consisted of dense forest that had me looking from right to left constantly. Arriving at the shoreline and looking at Bird Island I was stunned by the many Birds that populated that area. They flew by us, knowing we were in their turf. All in all, I can't wait to go back! Frank gives the hike two thumbs up.



Frank Palacios and Leovita Cabrera, CRM Coral Reef Initiative Summer Interns.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## No Hybrid? No worries!

You can still save on fuel, no matter what kind of car you drive. Whether you drive a SUV, V-8 engine truck or 2-door sedan, here are some 3-Rs to driving: reduce, refuel, realize.

### Reduce where you can.

Save time and money by combining errands into one trip. Several short trips taken from a cold start can use twice as much fuel as a longer multipurpose trip covering the same distance when the engine is warm.

Avoid keeping unnecessary items (in the trunk or bed of pickup truck). An extra 100 pounds can reduce your mileage by up to 2%. So, unless you are going to the beach everyday, leave the beach.

Abide by the limit. Aggressive driving (speeding, rapid acceleration and braking) wastes gas. It lowers gas mileage by 5%.

Idling gets zero miles per gallon and larger engines typically waste more gas at idle than cars with smaller engines.

### Refuel when cool.

Refueling during cooler periods of the day or in the evening can prevent gas fumes from heating up and creating ozone.

Fill up to the first click. Topping off

the tank releases gas fumes into the air, which cancels the benefits of the pump's anti-pollution devices. So, stopping at the "first click" keeps gas off of you, is safer, and reduces pollution.

Refuel when your gas tank is half-full. The more gas in your tank, the less air, and gasoline evaporates rapidly especially when it's warm. As gas prices increase, not everyone can afford to drive around with full tanks, but when you constantly have less than ¼ tank of gas, you risk damaging your fuel pump. Most modern fuel injected cars require the fuel pump to be cooled by the fuel.

### Realize savings.

You can improve your gas mileage by around 3.3 percent by keeping your tires inflated to the proper pressure. Under-inflated tires can lower gas mileage by 0.4 percent for every 1 psi drop in pressure of all four tires. Properly inflated tires are safer and last longer.

You can improve your gas mileage by 1-2 percent by using the manufacturer's recommended grade of motor oil. For example, using 10W-30 motor oil in an engine designed to use 5W-30 can lower your gas mileage by 1-2 percent. Using 5W-30 in an engine

designed for 5W-20 can lower your gas mileage by 1-1.5 percent. Also, look for motor oil that says "Energy Conserving" on the API performance symbol to be sure it contains friction-reducing additives.

### COCO asks you to please help:

Protect the Environment. Burning fossil fuels such as gasoline or diesel contributes to a number of environmental problems, such as air pollution (smog) and global climate change. In addition, spills from refining and transporting oil and petroleum products damage ecosystems and pollute groundwater and oceans.

Conserves Resources. Almost all of the cars and trucks we drive run on fuels derived from oil. Oil is a non-renewable resource, and while there is some debate as to how long this resource will last, we will eventually have to find new ways to power highway vehicles. Until other alternatives are developed, it makes sense to use fossil resources such as oil more efficiently to buy time to develop new and better energy sources and to make the transition to these sources smoother and less expensive.

Sources: [www.begreennow.com/tips](http://www.begreennow.com/tips) and <http://fuelconomy.gov>

### ENVIRONMENTAL TIP

## Hang on tight!

Which of these shouldn't you do with balloons?

- A.) Celebrate a birthday
- B.) Decorate at a carnival
- C.) Feed them to fish



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hang on tight. Balloons are beautiful and are part of special celebrations and carnivals; we just ask that you make sure balloons are tied to the wrist and don't fly away.

**Answer:** C. But we do it; helium balloons float to the ocean and get swallowed by sea creatures, including turtles and whales!

Helium balloons! Big, bouncing, bobbing...Oops! One got away. There it goes, into the sky, getting smaller and smaller...until it's just a speck. Then you blink and it's gone.

Where do helium balloons go? Off

into outer space? Not quite.

Actually, when they lose their helium, they come back to Earth. And that can be a problem for birds and other animals.

Balloons are blown by strong winds into the ocean. The salt water in the ocean washes off a balloon's color, making it look clear. Sometimes marine animals think balloons are food and eat them.

Sea turtles, for example, eat jellyfish-which look and wiggle just like clear balloons. If a turtle makes a mistake and eats a balloon, the balloon can block its stomach. So the turtle can starve to death.

Whales sometimes accidentally swallow balloons that are floating in the ocean. The balloons get stuck inside the whale's stomach, and can kill the creature.

Another hazard - those silver metallic balloons (made of Mylar material) sometimes escape from people's hands and get caught in electric power lines which can cause outages, leaving people without power.

Hang on tight. Balloons are beautiful and are part of special celebrations and carnivals; we just ask that you make sure balloons are tied to the wrist and don't fly away. (CoCo)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The next time you gas your car or truck, spend a couple of minutes to ensure that your tires are properly inflated to the PSI stated in your car manual.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

At your next fill up, stop at the first click. Topping off the tank releases gas fumes into the air, which cancels the benefits of the pump's anti-pollution devices.



# Life & Style

## Hundreds attend Summer Bash at Palms Resort

By **JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ**  
jackie\_delacruz89@yahoo.com  
JUNIOR REPORTER

Palms Resort Saipan hosted a summer bash party for the community last Saturday, drawing hundreds of people to the San Roque-based resort.

The first part of the party was from 1pm to 5pm. The other part was scheduled from 6pm to 9pm but was extended for an hour because of rains.

Families enjoyed the free swimming pools, exciting games, and affordable foods. Brad Ruszala hosted the event.

Assistant Food and Beverage manager Christina Lustre says, "The summer bash went great. It was really busy. The locals really enjoyed themselves. We had a good crowd, and everybody wanted the event to come out again."

"The highlight of the event was what we sold the most, which were the mini-burgers," adds Lustre.

S2 Club offered some marine sports activities such as kayaking, banana boat, and pedal boats.

During the daytime, Boarderline's children models performed a fashion show to the delight of the crowd.

Drinks and food were sold from \$1 to \$3. Foods that were offered included mini-burgers, ice cream, French fries, fried



Four-year-old Lance Christian Artango de la Torre walks the runway during the Boarderline Kids Fashion Show.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Hundreds of CNMI residents and visitors trooped to Palms Resort Saipan for the 2008 Summer Bash Party Saturday afternoon.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Young adults play a ball game on the swimming pool during the Palms Resort Saipan 2008 Summer Bash Party.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



A blindfolded man smashes a watermelon after spinning around in circles during one of the fun activities of the 2008 Summer Bash Party at the Palms Resort Saipan Saturday afternoon.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Children and adult enjoy the free water rides at the beach of Palms Resort Saipan.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Children got a free Banana boat ride during the fun event.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Boarderline Fashion Show models gather for a photo with Boarderline and All Star Sporting Goods store manager Soledad Tenorio.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Children participate in the throw-and-catch water ball game during the Palms Resort Saipan 2008 Summer Bash Party Saturday afternoon.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



chicken, barbecue, croquettes, bread and pizza.

At night, organizers canceled the swimsuit fashion show due to heavy rains. Close to a hundred adults also enjoyed the "\$10 all you can drink promo" as the Big Beats performed at the poolside. Many families booked rooms at the hotel, which offered a \$55 one-night stay.

The sponsors for the event were Power 99, Pacific Telecommunication Incorporation, Boarderline, Kiosk, Budweiser, S2 Club, First Hawaiian Bank, Saipan Sunset Cruise, and Ty & Tia Pearl Shake.

## Death and Funeral Announcement

### THOMAS CABRERA SABLAN

Born: Nov. 1, 1952

Was called to his eternal rest in the grace of our Lord on Wednesday, June 25, 2008, at the age of 55.

In his new life, he now joins his:

**Parents:** Tomas Palacios Sablan & Isabel Mendiola Cabrera Sablan

**Wife:** Francisca Vicenta Diaz Magofna Sablan

**Siblings/In-Laws:** Vicente S. Sablan, Soledad S./Francisco C. Basa Gregorio S./Victoria M. Sablan, Faustina S./Fernando M. Benavente, Jesus S. Sablan, Daniel T. Muna, Rita S. Mettao, Maria DLR. Gonzales, and Joaquin C. Sablan.

**Parents-in-Law:** Pedro Bias/Ana Diaz Magofna

**In-Laws:** Amalia, Amalia & Sylvan Canice D. Magofna

**Survived by his:**

**Children:** Thomas Jr. (Hannaeka, Thomas III, Keoni, Maria, and Tahnio-Joie), Yvonne/Derek Guzman (Thomas Peter, Tiana, Thea, and Tyarra), Marlene/Alvin T. Mendiola (Louanne and Matua), Ana (Tommie Frances and Teisha), Tammy (DeShaun and Francisca), Peter and June M. Sablan.

**Siblings/In-Laws:** Maria M. Sablan, Ana S./Henry T. Indalecio, Rita G. Sablan, Juana S. Muna, Natividad Sablan (Raphael Demapan), Matilde S./Martin M. Taisacan, Manuel C./Consolacion C. Sablan, Raphael M. Mettao, Maria S./Juan L. Ada, Alfredo A. Gonzales, Isabel S./Melchor U. Maratita, Pedro C./Ignacia M. Sablan, Margarita S./Jose T. Castro, Bernadita S./Isidro T. Cabrera, and Grace C. Sablan.

**In-Laws:** Vicente D./Rosalina Magofna, Rosario D. Magofna, Sinfiorosa D. Magofna, Estella M./Antonio Cabrera, Diana/Jose Santos, Carmen M./Roger Dempsey, Molly Ann M./Manuel Duenas, Cecilia M./Ramon Ngeskebei, James John D. Velma A. Magofna, Step-Mother-in-law: Ana Ada Magofna. He is additionally survived by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews

**Nightly Rosary is said immediately after Nightly Mass at 6:00 pm, except on Sunday at 7:00 am at San Antonio Church. On Thursday, July 3, 2008, his body will leave Borja Funeral Homes at 7:00 am and be escorted to San Antonio Church for viewing. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11 :00 am and Internment will follow immediately at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.**

**I tinayuyot yan finatton miyo ma sen agradezi. Si Yu'us ma'ase' ginen i famagu'on yan i familia.**



# Guam, LA and Tinian rule Saipan Pride 2008

Revelers from Guam, Los Angeles and Tinian ruled the second annual CNMI LGBT Pride Dance Party held Wednesday last week at the island's premier party hub, Club V, after being voted as the best dressed participants during the event.

Mike and Denny flew to Saipan from Guam and Los Angeles just to attend the Pride Party here on Saipan. The couple—dressed as the Truth or Dare Madonna—said the party was the best Pride Party they have ever attended in a small town. “We had so much fun!” said the winning couple.

Another pair from Tinian, Chris and Jeff, impressed judges with their costumes, coming in second with their Madonna's Angels outfit inspired by the gay icon's *Erotica* album. Saipan's Linda Cullen won third place

with her Vogue Madonna outfit.

Five participants dueled it out for the best Madonna outfits and impersonation, with Trends Salon's Sunshine besting six other participants in the Madonna Lip Synch Contest. ASKS' Sharmaine ranked second while Jaz of Trends Salon came in third.

For Saipan Grand Hotel's Club V, last week's Wednesday night was the best one they've ever had, with over 150 partygoers transforming the traditionally slow evening into a night of dancing and revelry.

This year's revelry celebrated the release of Madonna's newest album *Hard Candy*. Several raffle prizes were given away, including Madonna's brand new album. Proceeds of the event went to Napu Life Foundation, a group that advocates HIV and



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Madonna fanatics and impersonators gather for a photo as they celebrate the second annual CNMI LGBT Pride Dance Party dubbed Hard Candy.

AIDS awareness in the CNMI. Napu Life Foundation president Joaquin Sablan provided a brief speech about the group and its objectives for the year.

DJ Tatinouk served as the guest disc jockey while Club V

in-house band Remyx provided curtain music.

Non-profit groups Napu Life Foundation and RaveSaipan organized the event this year, in collaboration with Saipan Grand Hotel. Major sponsors

were Traders Insurance, Carlsberg, Excel Insurance, Esolutions, Vargas Construction, Cielo Jewelry, Genoveva's Hair Power, Labtech, Sun Palace Hotel, SaipanCell, Salon de Manila, and Wear-a-Marconi. (PR)



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Madonna fanatics and impersonators hit the dance floor to celebrate the second annual CNMI LGBT Pride Dance Party at the Saipan Grand Hotel's Club V Wednesday night.

## Ledger's hometown to name theater after him

**PERTH, Australia (AP)**—The Australian hometown of the late actor Heath Ledger named a theater in his honor Tuesday for his commitment to acting.

The \$87 million, 575-seat Heath Ledger Theater in Perth is a fitting tribute because Ledger was always supportive of other young actors, Western Australia state Premier Alan Carpenter said at a naming ceremony.

Ledger died at 28 of an accidental prescription drug overdose in New York in January.

“Heath Ledger was totally dedicated to the craft of being an actor and that's what made him successful,” Carpenter said. “I think what we're doing is continuing that support for young people who want to make a career in the arts and acting, stage and in film, whatever it happens to be.”

Kim Ledger, the actor's father, called the tribute a pleasant surprise.



AP

In this Nov. 13, 2007 file photo, actor Heath Ledger attends a special Cinema Society and Hogan hosted screening of “I'm Not There” at the Chelsea West Cinemas, in New York.

“He was such a giver to the arts right across the board. I really feel that there's not a lot of things he'd put his name to, but he'd put his name to that,” said Kim Ledger, who attended

Tuesday's ceremony.

Kim Ledger said family members would travel to New York later this month to attend a screening of “The Dark Knight.” Heath Ledger plays the Joker in the movie, his final full film role. The actor's performance has already been lauded by critics.

The renewed attention on his son because of the film has made the family's grieving process difficult, Ledger said.

“It's just been a little more public and the films make it a little more public as well,” he said. “It's been a little bit hard, but we've always been extremely proud of his work and that hasn't changed.”

Ledger received a best-actor Academy Award nomination for his role in 2005's “Brokeback Mountain.”

“The Dark Knight” opens in theaters July 18.

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**NOW SHOWING**



**Hancock**

Thurs 1:30 4:25 7:30 9:30

**Will Smith, Charlize Theron**  
Action, Comedy • Rated PG 13

### Synopsis

A hard-drinking superhero with a notorious reputation as a womanizer enters into an unlikely affair with a small-town housewife in director Peter Berg's unconventional look at the private life of a superhuman crime-fighter. Will Smith stars as the embittered do-gooder whose lifestyle is more akin to a rock star than a role model, and who has grown as disillusioned with his once-admiring public as they have of him. — Jason Buchanan, All Movie Guide



**Wall-E**

Thurs 1:15 4:05 7:05 9:40

**Wall-E as played by Tracy McGrady**  
Comedy, Action, Animation • Rated G

### Synopsis

Disney and Pixar join forces for this computer-animated tale about a wide-eyed robot who travels to the deepest reaches of outer space in search of a newfound friend. The year is 2700, and planet Earth has long been uninhabitable. For hundreds of years, WALL-E (Waste Allocation Load Lifter Earth-Class) has been taking out the trash, and collecting precious knick-knacks in order to stave off the boredom of his dreary routine. Little does WALL-E realize that he has recently stumbled onto a secret that could save planet Earth, and once again make the ravaged planet safe for all humankind. When highly advanced search robot EVE makes friends with WALL-E and realizes the value of his remarkable discovery, she excitedly races back to let the humans know that there's hope for their home planet after all.



**Wanted**

Thurs 1:20 4:10 7:25 9:50

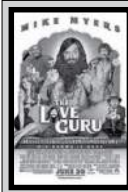
**James McAvoy, Angelina Jolie**  
Action • Rated R



**Get Smart**

Thurs 1:00 4:15 7:10 9:45

**Steve Carell, Anne Hathaway**  
Comedy, Adaptation • Rated PG 13



**The Love Guru**

Thurs 1:10 4:30

**Mike Myers, Jessica Alba**  
Comedy • Rated PG 13



**Incredible Hulk**

Thurs 1:25 4:00 7:00 9:55

**Edward Norton, Liv Tyler**  
Action, Adaptation • Rated PG 13



**The Happening**

Thurs 7:15 10:00

**Mark Wahlberg, John Leguizamo**  
Action, Thriller • Rated R



**Kung Fu Panda**

Thurs 1:05 4:20 7:20 9:35

**Jack Black (v), Dustin Hoffman (v)**  
Comedy, Action, Animation • Rated PG

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# Jolie goes into French hospital for birth of twins



In this May 15, 2008 file photo, U.S. actors Brad Pitt, left, and Angelina Jolie arrive for the premiere of the film "Kung Fu Panda," during the 61st International film festival in Cannes, France.

**P**ARIS (AP)—Brangelina's twins aren't here yet, but the big day is drawing closer. The seafront Lénval hospital in Nice in the south of France said Tuesday that Angelina Jolie had checked in at its Santa Maria maternity clinic to be kept under doctors' surveillance and get some rest before she gives birth.

"There's no urgency. It's been planned for a long time," said Nadine Bauer, a hospital spokeswoman. "She's very well. Everything is fine."

"She is not on the verge of giving birth, not at all," she said. "It's not for right away."

The 33-year-old actress will almost certainly remain in the hospital until she gives birth, Bauer said. She said Jolie was admitted recently but would not say exactly when.

Jolie has said the babies are due in August, but twins are often born early. She and her partner, Brad Pitt, have four children: Maddox, 6; Pax, 4; Zahara, 3; and Shiloh, 2.

The Brangelina clan has been settling into a new home in the south of France. They recently moved into the Miraval Estate villa in the French hamlet of

Correns, in the Provence region. The town's mayor has said the couple have moved in, and a helicopter has been spotted taking off and landing at the site.

Correns is about 60 miles from Nice, a resort on the Mediterranean. Bauer said the hospital faces the sea, is "very modern" and specializes in caring for children.

The hospital is named after Baron de Lénval, who in 1884 donated part of his fortune to start the facility, in memory of his only son, who died in Nice at age 11, the hospital's Web site says. It says the hospital was rebuilt in the 1990s. Photos show a boxy-looking building with a white exterior and mirrored blue windows set among palm trees.

The hospital's address is fitting for the American couple: It's on Nice's California Avenue.

## Hospice can lend support to families facing grief

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: "Sad Dad in Arizona" (May 2) wrote that he was concerned because his teenage son didn't want to attend his mother's funeral and preferred to remember her "the way she was."

Please tell Dad to contact his local hospice. Many hospices provide support counseling during this difficult time. We assign a social worker as well as a nurse and chaplain to each family who comes to us.

Hospice is here to help with everything that has an impact on the patient at this time. Please urge that family to get support now and not wait until the end.

PAM, R.N., HOSPICE OF THE FLORIDA SUNCOAST

**DEAR PAM:** Your suggestion to seek the assistance of a local hospice is excellent. Readers, to locate your nearest hospice, please visit one of the following Web sites: [www.hospicenet.org](http://www.hospicenet.org) or [www.hospicefoundation.org](http://www.hospicefoundation.org). Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I was deployed overseas when my grandfather was diagnosed as terminal and passed away. Due to military regulations, I was not allowed to return stateside and attend his funeral.

The last time I saw my grandfather I hugged him goodbye and told him how much I loved him. (He had been like a father to me.) I was spared the grief involved in watching my grandfather buried, so I understand exactly where this young man is coming from in his desire to remember his mother alive, because that is how I remember my grandfather.

Please let "Sad Dad's" son know that while a living memory is a wonderful final memory to have, he will wish forever that he had been there to honor his mother. I'm in exactly the situation that he wishes to be in, and I would trade everything I have to go back and honor my family at the funeral.

MATTHEW IN PORT GIBSON, MISS.

DEAR ABBY: I wholeheartedly agree with your reply to "Sad Dad." I was 19 when my mother died suddenly. Unfortunately, our father was not sensitive to my feelings and needs or those of my siblings. We were forced to not only attend our mother's memorial, but also to be greeters at the door of the church. Participating in the service did not provide us "closure" but additional trauma.

I fully support "Sad Dad" in allowing his son to decide whether or not he is comfortable attending, and I commend him for putting his child's needs before his own.

STILL HEALING IN LIVINGSTON, MONT.

DEAR ABBY: Most funeral homes today will videotape the funeral. If the son wants to view it at a later date, it will be available to him. Also, encourage him to keep a journal of his thoughts or to write letters to his mother after she dies. It will help him to express his feelings. A local hospice may have a grief support group for youths that he may or may not wish to seek out.

Encourage him, but don't push. Be sure to have lots of love ready for him when he needs it, and let him do it his way, just as you will have to grieve in your own way.

ONE WHO HAS BEEN THERE IN IOWA

DEAR ABBY: The statement that "funerals are good for people because they give a sense of closure" has some merit. However, many people do not think an open casket is either necessary or desirable. Tradition, encouraged by an active "funeral industry," perpetuates the practice.

Frankly, I prefer the living memories, and have found memorial services without a casket to be far warmer and uplifting. Do not be overly constrained by tradition; explore what others are doing.

OLD DOC IN LOS ALTOS, CALIF.

■■■

*Dear Abby* is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write *Dear Abby* at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

## Visa denial forces Boy George to cancel US tour

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Boy George's plans for a North American tour have run into some bad karma.

The Culture Club singer, whose given name is George O'Dowd, has canceled his summer plans after U.S. authorities denied him a visa to enter the country.

O'Dowd, 47, had planned to officially kick off his 25-city tour in Aspen, Colo., on July 10, and was to throw in a free concert at the New York City Department of Sanitation's Family Day in August. He worked for the department in 2006 while performing court-ordered community service in a drug case.

That didn't appear possible, though, when last week O'Dowd's managers issued a statement saying he had been refused a visa because he's awaiting trial in London on charges that he falsely imprisoned a man. The Sun newspaper reported in April that a 28-year-old man claimed he was chained and threatened at O'Dowd's London flat, where he had gone to work as a photo model.

The singer, whose hits include "Karma Chameleon," has pleaded not guilty.

"I was really hoping that the issue would be resolved and that some kind soul at the U.S. Visa Office would realize that if



In this March 8, 2006 file photo, Boy George, whose real name is George O'Dowd, exits Manhattan criminal court in New York.

the police in the U.K. placed no restrictions on my movements, that should have been good enough for them," O'Dowd said in a statement Tuesday.

"I am very sorry that I will not see all my American fans this year, but I wish them a happy and healthy Fourth of July. I include the Visa Office in those good wishes and realize they are doing a very difficult job and I just got unlucky," he said.

Meanwhile, O'Dowd intends to reschedule his North American tour for next winter. He'll continue his concert tours of South America and the United Kingdom in September and October.

## Christie Brinkley divorce trial set to begin

**CENTRAL ISLIP, N.Y.** (AP)—There's not much the public hasn't seen of Christie Brinkley.

Whether it's in next-to-nothing swimsuits in *Sports Illustrated* or starring in ex-husband Billy Joel's rock videos or in countless boldface tabloid mentions, the quintessential California blond cover girl has become a fixture on the cultural landscape.

And now Brinkley's divorce from her fourth husband, Hamptons architect Peter Cook, is about to be aired in full public view as a trial opens Wednesday on Long Island.

It's rare for divorce cases to go to trial and be open to the public. Brinkley, 54, opposed a move by a legal guardian

for her children that would have closed the proceedings to the public, apparently comfortable with the prospect that Cook's alleged affair with an 18-year-old employee and other intimate details of their 10-year marriage will be ripe for public consumption.

"So much has already been in the press about what happened," said Brinkley's Manhattan attorney, Robert Stephan Cohen. "We believe the only way to get at the truth is through an open courtroom. Mr. Cook shouldn't be embarrassed. If he is, it's his own fault."

Brinkley filed for divorce from Cook in 2006 after reports surfaced that he had an affair with the teenager, Diana Bianchi, who claims Cook seduced her shortly after hiring her to work at his architectural firm. She's expected to be among the first witnesses at the trial.



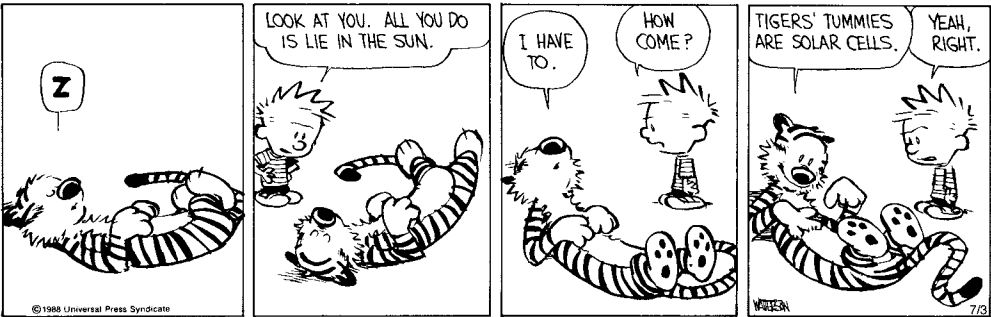
In this April 25, 2007 file photo, Christie Brinkley attends the SOS: Short Film Program, on the opening night of the Tribeca Film Festival in New York.



Pastimes

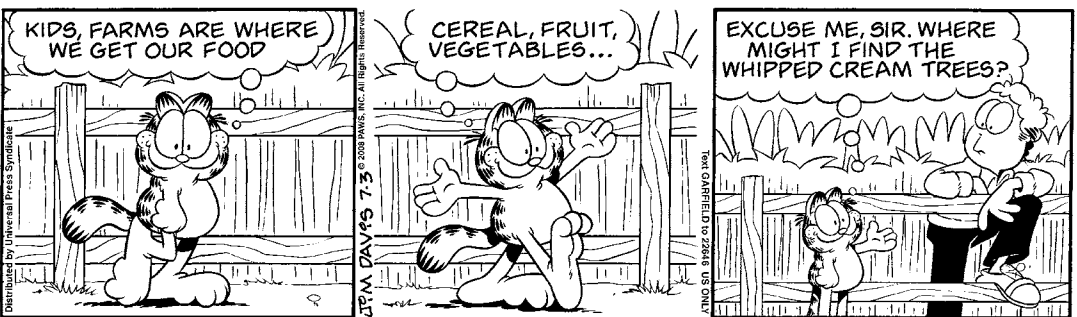
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



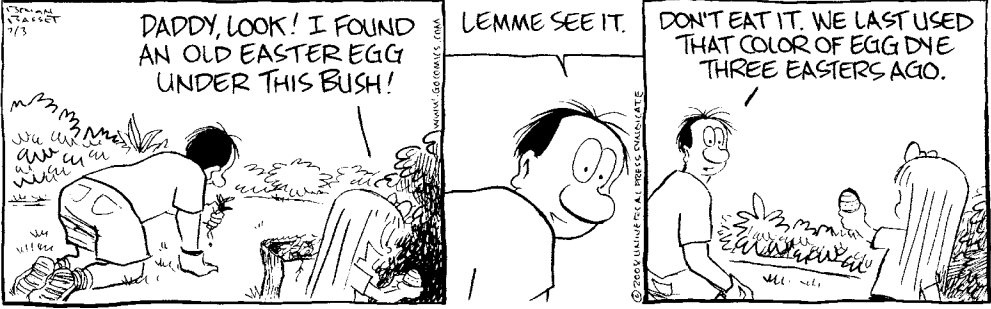
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



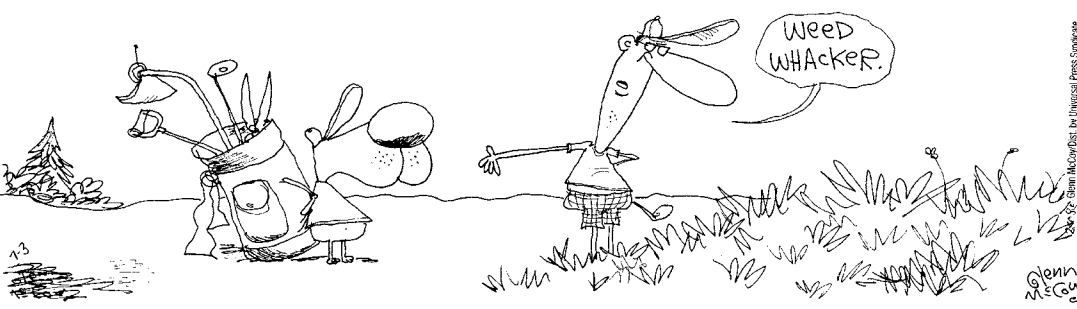
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



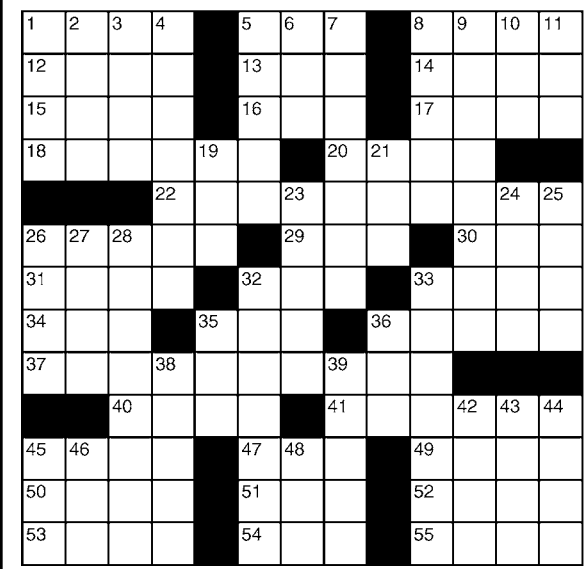
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Singer
  - 5 Witticism
  - 8 Fat
  - 12 Lotion
  - 13 Onassis, familiarly
  - 14 Dandling
  - 15 45, for one
  - 16 Profit
  - 17 Gilligan's home
  - 18 Not come unglued?
  - 20 Oldsters' org.
  - 22 Wool-worth's was one
  - 26 Weeps loudly
  - 29 Sartorial mishap
  - 30 Sportage maker
  - 31 Farm fraction
  - 32 Tic-  
-toe
  - 33 Garment borders
  - 34 Half a dance?
  - 35 Fowl often served au vin
- DOWN**
- 1 Scoun-drels
  - 2 Settled down
  - 3 Parks or Bonheur
  - 4 Use again
  - 5 Food from heaven
  - 6 Mined stuff
  - 7 DiCaprio/Winslet movie
  - 8 Border
  - 9 Tacit
  - 10 Moray, for one
  - 11 Ball holder
  - 12 Reactions of surprise
  - 13 Cleo-patra's slayer
  - 14 Baghdad denizen
  - 15 Optician's selections
  - 16 Facility
  - 17 "Art of the Fugue" composer
  - 18 Sore
  - 19 Pre-birthday task
  - 20 "War and Peace" author
  - 21 Revolutionary
  - 22 War mer-cenary
  - 23 Sob
  - 24 Firma-ment
  - 25 Third rock from the sun
  - 26 Futile, as a situation
  - 27 Heavy reading?
  - 28 Pitcher
  - 29 McNally partner
  - 30 Type units
  - 31 "Ostenta-tious?"
  - 32 Copper head

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 7-3



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tom Cruise, 46; Thomas Gibson, 46; Montel Williams, 52; Dave Barry, 61

**Happy Birthday:** You have a lot to contend with this year. Step up and take responsibility for whatever situation you find yourself in. This is not the year to complain, overreact or put the blame elsewhere. Deal with any dilemma or situation you face so you can let go of the past and move into the future. Your numbers are 11, 16, 23, 30, 44, 49

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): There is no point in getting upset over something you can't change. Focus on something that interests you and do things that will help you get ahead. Sign up for a course or learn more about an interesting activity. ★★

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): Get involved in the history of your family or take a trip to visit friends or family you haven't seen for a while. You will discover valuable information about your past. Going back in time can help you put what you are experiencing now into perspective. ★★★★★

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Don't trust an offer that is too good to be true. Giving up a position without securing where you are heading will leave you scrambling. An older friend or relative will add to your responsibilities. ★★★

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): You'll be sensitive toward what others say and do. If you are uncertain how to respond, hold off even if it means missing out on something.

Another opportunity will come along shortly if you are patient. Be strong. ★★★

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Take an exotic vacation or do something out of the ordinary that will inspire you to take on a project or learn something new. Keep what you are up to a secret in case you change your mind mid-stream. Follow your heart and see where it leads you. ★★

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Romance is in the stars. Put everything else aside in order to nurture the most important partnership in your life. If you are single, get involved in something you feel passionately about and you will meet someone who shares your dreams for the future. ★★★★★

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't put too much emphasis on what others want you to do. Someone will criticize you, putting a damper on your plans. Remember, what's good for you may not interest someone else but that doesn't mean you should abandon your plans. ★★

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Travel to a destination that offers something different. A new look, a chance to try something new or even putting all your effort into a love relationship will be rewarding and will help you see things from an unusual point of view. ★★★★★

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You are going to have to deal with some past issues in order to spare yourself financial losses in the future. Get whatever you need in writing. Someone will say one thing but mean another. Don't be taken advantage of. ★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't wander too far off the beaten track. If you don't know the answer to something, don't pretend you do. Highlight romance. Single or not, plan something special. ★★

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Talk things over with the one you love or your closest confidant and you will have a better understanding of what's expected of you. Invite friends over to brainstorm about a plan you want to put into motion. Make some creative changes. ★★

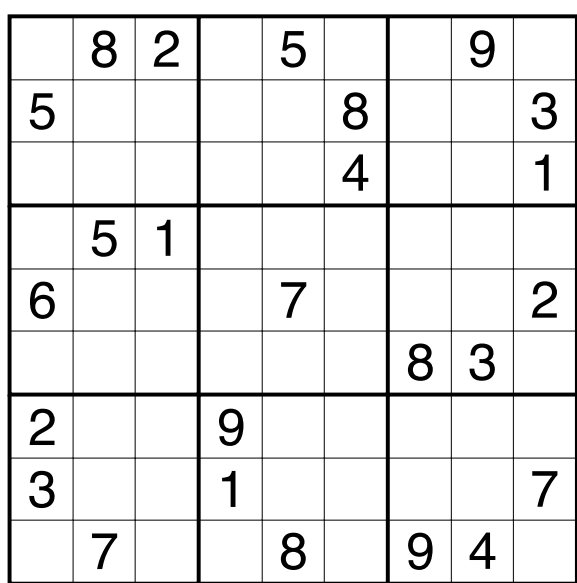
**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Love and romance are at an all-time high. Voice your intentions for the future and share your ideas. Home improvements will pay off in terms of comfort, entertainment and assets. ★★★★★

**Birthday Baby:** You are caring and unique. You are open, outgoing and responsible. You show great restraint but are changeable.

Eugenia's Web sites: [astroadvice.com](http://astroadvice.com) for fun, [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com) for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

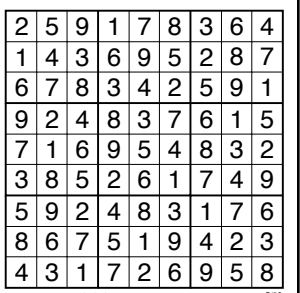
Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/02

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CAVE MURALS Solution: 8 letters



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Analyze, Archeology, Carved, Clues, Colors, Craftsmanship, Design, Detailed, Discover, Drawings, Eras, Fragile, Frescoes, Hidden, History, Humans, Image, Information, Inscription, Large, Lives, Mythical, Palette, Pattern, Pictures, Plain, Race, Ritual, Rock, Sketch, Small, Smooth, Stone, Study, Style, Theme, Tribe, Unusual, Writings

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

**A DRAFT**

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**CANCELLATION**

**Classified Ads**

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**Job Vacancy Announcements**

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

**REFUNDS**

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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# Williams sisters closing in on Wimbledon final



**WIMBLEDON, England (AP)**—

One prematch glance Tuesday at the data displayed on those fancy, new digital scoreboards at staid, old Wimbledon provided a pretty persuasive case for why Venus Williams might be considered the woman to beat.

The entry under career record at the grass-court Grand Slam: "55-7." The listing of her best result: "WINNER 2007, 2005, 2001, 2000."

Yet another reason to like the American's chances: The way she served during the ensuing 6-4, 6-3 quarterfinal victory over Tamarine Tanasugarn — smacking eight aces, saving nine of the 10 break points, tying her Wimbledon record with a 127 mph delivery.

That extended Williams' winning streak at the All England Club to 12 matches, including 19 sets in a row. Nonetheless, at least one person who knows a thing or two about tennis and a thing or two about Venus Williams flatly rejected the notion that she's the favorite: Serena Williams.

Asked after her own impressive quarterfinal victory—6-4, 6-0 against 11th-ranked Agnieszka Radwanska—whether her older sister should be considered the likeliest champion, Serena shot back: "I would never sit here and say she's the favorite when I'm still in the draw. What are you on?"

Rather than a sibling rivalry, that response perhaps reflects



Serena Williams of the U.S. in action during her quarterfinal match against Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska on the Centre Court at Wimbledon, Tuesday, July 1, 2008.

nothing more than the sort of competitive drive that helped the younger Williams win eight Grand Slam singles titles. That haul includes the 2002 and 2003 Wimbledon championships, each time concluded by beating her sister.

One more win apiece, and they'll reprise the all-in-the-family final tradition Saturday. In Thursday's semifinals, Serena will face 133rd-ranked Zheng Jie, who became the first Chinese player to reach the semi-

finals at a major tournament by upsetting 18th-seeded Nicole Pietrangeli 6-2, 5-7, 6-1.

Venus next plays the highest-seeded remaining woman, No. 5 Elena Dementieva, who beat No. 21 Nadia Petrova 6-1, 6-7 (6), 6-3.

Zheng is the first wild-card entrant to reach the women's semifinals at Wimbledon; only one woman ranked lower has made the semifinals at any Grand Slam.

"I just try my best to keep go-

ing," Zheng said.

"China has quite a lot of sports in which it is a world leader," she said through a translator. "Unfortunately, tennis is not one of them."

Like Zheng, Radwanska and Tanasugarn were playing in the Wimbledon quarterfinals for the first time. Unlike her, they were forced to deal with a Williams on Tuesday.

More specifically, they were forced to deal with those Williams serves, developed by Dad

all those years ago on the courts in Compton, Calif.

"We're different," Venus said. "I serve big almost every time. She goes for a little more placement."

Against Radwanska, Serena hit 11 aces, including four in one game while pulling even at 3-3 in the first set. On the last of those, Radwanska lunged and whiffed, then grimaced at her racket.

"It's too much, you know," Radwanska said.

She isn't exactly a nobody, having won the Wimbledon junior title in 2005 and pulled off an upset of defending champion Maria Sharapova at last year's U.S. Open. But Serena made her look absolutely ordinary, if that, taking 28 of the last 37 points.

While Serena mixed in flat 120 mph serves with spinning, kicking changeups, Venus stuck with the hard stuff against Tanasugarn.

"I have a lot of power, so it helps," Venus said. "Definitely, the power helps."

She produced some of her best stuff when she needed to, particularly in the match's sixth game.

Tanasugarn earned six break points, and the first five vanished thanks to, in order, a 107 mph service winner, a 102 mph service winner, a 115 mph service winner, a 94 mph service winner and a 122 mph ace.

"I'm really blessed to be able to have a serve to get me out of those issues," Venus said.

On break point No. 6, Tanasugarn managed to put her re-

turn in play but then slapped a forehand into the net.

That's when she turned her back to the court and motioned toward the players' guest box with her hand, raising one finger at a time to count out those missed opportunities: 1-2-3-4-5-6.

"She served very well during the break points," Tanasugarn said. "So what can I do?"

A few moments later, she did come up with a possible solution. A tad envious of her statuesque opponent—the 6-foot-1 Williams has 8 inches on her—Tanasugarn said, "Next life, I want to be tall as her. Please."

Neither Williams has dropped a set during the tournament, and their seedings—Serena is No. 6, Venus No. 7—certainly seem to have been miscalculated. It's the first time at any Grand Slam in the 40-year Open era that none of the four top-seeded women reached the quarterfinals, making the path even smoother for the siblings.

Hard to believe, but there hasn't been a Williams vs. Williams final at a tournament since 2003 at the All England Club.

And what if they do meet again for the title, in what would be their seventh matchup in a Grand Slam final? What would breakfast be like Saturday morning at the place they're sharing here?

"I'm going to sabotage her and eat all the breakfast," Serena said. "I'll eat all the Wheaties so she doesn't have any chance."

## Baron Davis on the verge of signing with Clippers



**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)**—Baron Davis is on the verge of signing a long-term deal with the Los Angeles Clippers, a day after the point guard shocked

the Golden State Warriors by opting out of the final season of his contract to become a free agent.

Though Davis refused to directly confirm an ESPN.com report that he has agreed to sign with Golden State's Pacific Division rivals, he left no doubt about his upcoming move to Southern California.

Davis already was speaking about the Warriors in the past tense Tuesday night before attending the private Bay Area premiere of "Made in America," a documentary he produced about gang life in his native Los Angeles.

"It's tough, but you have to do what's best," said Davis, his usually bushy beard trimmed short. "You have to do what's fair. I'm happy with where I'm going. A big reason is because of the impact and the things that I can do going forward. I knew I could have done them here and created all kinds of good

things and positive things in the community, and ultimately, me going home helps me make an impact on young kids."

The 29-year-old Davis, a former UCLA star who has never made a secret of his desire to play in his hometown, averaged 21.8 points, 7.6 assists and 4.7 rebounds while playing in all 82 games last season for the Warriors, who finished with 48 wins—the best record by a non-playoff team in recent NBA history. A year earlier, Davis was the catalyst for Golden State's trip to the second round of the

playoffs, ending a 12-season postseason drought and including a stunning upset of top-seeded Dallas in the first round.

On Monday, Davis surprised the Warriors and most league observers by opting out of the final year of his long-term contract, turning down \$17.8 million for next season to become an unrestricted free agent. The Clippers were quick to pounce, offering a long-term deal to the oft-injured, playmaking point guard who helped transform the Warriors' fortunes in just 1 1/2 seasons with the club.

Clippers forward Elton Brand also opted out of his contract on Monday, but Los Angeles is expected to make a strong push to sign the veteran forward. And Brand immediately expressed his

desire to stay with the Clippers.

With Davis and Brand, the Clippers would have a talented core—albeit a middle-aged group by NBA standards, and one with significant injury histories.



### NBA BRIEFS

#### Clippers say Brand and Maggette opt out

Elton Brand and Corey Maggette have told the Los Angeles Clippers they will opt of the final year of their contracts and become free agents. "We have been notified by Elton Brand and Corey Maggette of each player's decision to opt out of his respective contract," Clippers president Andy Roeser said Monday in a statement. "On Monday night, when NBA rules permit, we will be aggressive in contacting them to address our interest in having them remain with the Clippers. We will also be active in contacting other free agents in whom we have interest." Brand, who played in only eight games last season because of a knee injury, told ESPN.com he is opting out of the final year of his contract to become an unrestricted free agent. "It definitely doesn't mean I'm leaving the Clippers," Brand told the Web site Monday night. "We're trying to work it out. My intention is to stay." (AP)

#### Bobcats, injury-riddled Harrington part ways

**CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)**—The Charlotte Bobcats have declined to pick up a team option on the contract of forward Othella Harrington, making him an unrestricted free agent. The move Tuesday was no surprise after Harrington missed 71 games in two seasons with the Bobcats due to two surgeries on his left knee. The 34-year-old Harrington played in only 22 games last season and averaged 2.1 points and 1.9 rebounds. The Bobcats also aren't expected to re-sign unrestricted free agents Derek Anderson and Earl Boykins. Charlotte has nine players under contract, not counting draft picks D.J. Augustin, Alexis Ajinca and Kyle Weaver and restricted free agents Emeka Okafor and Ryan Hollins.

## Wizards open talks with Arenas, praise Jamison

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—On Tuesday morning, Abe Pollin placed a call to free agent Gilbert Arenas, who was at a layover in Toronto on the way to China for a promotional trip on behalf of a shoe company.

In the afternoon, the 84-year-old Washington Wizards owner arrived via cart and was helped into a cushioned chair for a news conference for the newly re-signed Antawn Jamison. Although the body appeared frail, the voice and mind were strong and sharp.

"I'm getting a little old and

a little sick," Pollin said. "But I'm still around, and I'm going to be around until we win the ... championship. I'm stubborn and hardheaded."

And determined to achieve his goal with the core group that has led his team to four straight playoff appearances. So far, half of the major offseason work has been accomplished.

While negotiations with free agent Jamison were relatively straightforward—a four-year, \$50 million deal that was signed Monday night—the talks with Arenas will be much

more complicated. The Wizards can sign the three-time All-Star point guard to a maximum deal worth roughly \$125 million over six years, but Arenas has also said he doesn't want to hamstring the team's ability to sign other players.

Under NBA rules, the Wizards couldn't start negotiating with Arenas until the start of the free agency period on Tuesday—Jamison's situation was different because Arenas became a free agent by exercising an opt-out clause. The team also can't comment on the talks

with Arenas or announce a deal until a league-mandated moratorium expires July 9.

"We've contacted the players, and the process is going to play out," said president Ernie Grunfeld, referring to both Arenas and free agent guard Roger Mason.

Jamison's signing satisfies one condition in the talks with Arenas, who had said he would not return unless the team also kept his longtime teammate.

"I'm confident something will get done," Jamison said. "He just likes to go at his own pace."



# Garza shines again, Rays beat Red Sox to extend lead



**ST. PETERSBURG, Florida**

(AP)—Matt Garza pitched seven strong innings in his first outing since throwing a one-hitter, and the Tampa Bay Rays beat Boston and nemesis Tim Wakefield 3-1 on Tuesday.

The win extended their lead in the American League East to 2 1/2 games over the second-place Red Sox.

Garza (7-4) allowed an unearned run and five hits, and Dioner Navarro snapped a fourth-inning tie with an RBI single off Wakefield (5-6), whose 19 career victories against Tampa Bay—nine at Tropicana Field—are the most by an opposing pitcher.

## Rangers 3, Yankees 2

At New York, Michael Young had an RBI single off Mariano Rivera in the ninth inning to help give Texas its second straight win over New York.

Rivera (2-3) came on in the ninth after the New York bullpen held Texas to one hit in four innings in relief of Joba Chamberlain and proceeded to give up hits to the first two batters he faced.

Ian Kinsler doubled to left, stole third—his third steal of the game—and scored to give Texas a 3-2 lead on Young's hit through a drawn-in infield to give the Yankees their third straight loss.

## Orioles 7, Royals 5

At Baltimore, Brian Roberts homered, Ramon Hernandez and Adam Jones had two RBIs apiece, and Baltimore rebounded from two straight frustrating losses by beating Kansas City.

Aubrey Huff had two hits and drove in a run for the Orioles.

Gordon and Mark Teahan homered for the Royals, whose six-game road winning streak ended.

Baltimore starter Radhames Liz (3-0) allowed three runs and seven hits in six innings. George Sherill got two outs for his 27th save.

## White Sox 3, Indians 2, 10 innings

At Chicago, Alexei Ramirez tied it with a two-out homer and Orlando Cabrera won it with an RBI single, both in the 10th inning, and Chicago rallied for its sixth straight win, beating Cleveland.

With the White Sox trailing 2-1 and two outs, Ramirez hit a towering fly off Indians closer Joe Borowski. Cleveland left fielder Ben Francisco went back to the fence like he might have a play, but the ball just sailed over to tie the game.

Pinch-hitter DeWayne Wise singled, stole second and scored on Cabrera's single to center off Borowski (1-3), who blew his fourth save in 10 chances.

## Twins 6, Tigers 4

At Minneapolis, Craig Monroe

hit a three-run homer and Justin Morneau added three hits to help Minnesota beat Detroit.

Mike Redmond had two RBIs for Minnesota, which has won eight of 10 and 12 of its last 14.

Marcus Thames hit his second homer in as many games for the Tigers, who lost for the first time in seven games.

Scott Baker (5-2) wasn't sharp, but won his third straight game for the first time in his 60-start career. For the second straight start, he allowed three earned runs in six innings.

## Angels 5, Athletics 3

At Anaheim, California, Vladimir Guerrero triggered a three-run rally in the eighth inning with an RBI single and Garret Anderson hit a two-run homer for Los Angeles.

The win extended the Angels' lead in the AL West over the second-place Athletics to 4 1/2 games.

Casey Kotchman greeted Alan Embree (1-3) with a ground-rule double leading off the eighth. After a sacrifice bunt by Maicer Izturis, pinch-runner Reggie Wilkits scored on Guerrero's ground single through the left side. Anderson then drove a 3-1 pitch to right for his seventh homer.

Francisco Rodriguez pitched a perfect ninth for his major league-leading 33rd save in 35 chances.

## Mariners 7, Blue Jays 6

At Seattle, Willie Bloomquist singled home Raul Ibanez with the winning run in the bottom of ninth to cap Seattle's rally past Toronto.

Ibanez opened the inning with a walk off Scott Downs (0-2). After a sacrifice and intentional walk, Shawn Camp relieved and on the first pitch Bloomquist hit his game-winner into the left-center gap.

Down 6-2 in the sixth, the Mariners scored one in the sixth, two in the seventh and one in the eighth to tie it. Richie Sexson provided the eighth-inning tying run with a leadoff home run. It was his 10th, but first since May 24.

Yuniesky Betancourt had two

singles and two RBIs for the Mariners.

## Phillies 4, Braves 0

At Atlanta, Shane Victorino hit a home run and drove in four runs and the Phillies beat the Braves to remain unbeaten at Turner Field this season.

Pat Burrell also hit a homer for the Phillies, who improved to 6-1 against the Braves this

on eight hits in the first three innings against Braves rookie Charlie Morton (1-2).

## Nationals 9, Marlins 6

At Miami, Collin Balester won his debut, and Ronnie Belliard hit a grand slam to give Washington a win over Florida.

Balester gave up one hit and struck out three in five innings to become the first Nationals

hit a grand slam Aug. 25, 2005.

## Mets 7, Cardinals 4

At St. Louis, Tony Armas won his season debut after a minor league callup and eighth-place hitter Ramon Castro had two hits and three RBIs in New York's victory over St. Louis.

David Wright hit his 16th homer and lacked a triple for the cycle in an offense that had 14 hits after mustering six runs while dropping three of the previous four games.

The Mets punished Todd Wellemeyer (7-3), the National League pitcher of the month in May but 1-2 with a 6.52 ERA and two missed turns in the rotation due to elbow woes since.

Carlos Delgado was 3-for-3 with two doubles, ending a 1-for-13 slump, and Ryan Church had two hits and an RBI. Castro, a backup catcher, has 11 RBIs in 59 at-bats.

## Rockies 4, Padres 0

At Denver, Aaron Cook tossed a five-hitter for the first shutout of his career, and Colorado ended an eight-game losing streak with a win over San Diego.

Cook (11-5) struck out four and needed 79 pitches and 1 hour, 58 minutes for his second complete game of the season, eighth of his career. He didn't allow a runner past first base and faced just three batters over the minimum.

## Pirates 6, Reds 5, 11 innings

At Cincinnati, Jack Wilson—batting at the very bottom of the order—hit a tiebreaking triple in the 11th inning that set up Pittsburgh's victory over Cincinnati.

Wilson's run-scoring triple off David Weathers (2-4) snapped a 4-all tie in the 11th, and Nate McLouth followed with a run-scoring single that gave the Pirates just enough. For the second day in a row, Wilson batted at the bottom of the order as part of an experiment—Pittsburgh's starting pitchers batted eighth—and went 3-for-5.

## Dodgers 7, Astros 6, 11 innings

At Houston, Jeff Kent hit a solo homer off Wesley Wright in the 11th inning and Los Angeles blew a five-run lead, then rallied to beat Houston.

Kent also had an RBI double and Russell Martin hit a two-run homer as the Dodgers needed their highest run total since June 19 to defeat the Astros for the first time in five meetings this season.

Park Chan-ho (4-2) got Lance Berkman to fly out to end the ninth, then pitched a scoreless 10th. After Kent homered off Wright (3-3), Takashi Saito pitched a perfect 11th for his 13th save.

## Brewers 8, Diamondbacks 6

At Phoenix, J.J. Hardy homered twice and Milwaukee defeated Arizona, handing Randy Johnson his sixth straight loss.

Joe Dillon also homered for the Brewers, who beat Arizona for the fourth time in five meetings. The NL West leaders dropped to 42-42 and saw their lead over the Los Angeles Dodgers shrink to 2 1/2 games.

Salomon Torres got three outs for his 14th save in 16 chances.

Arizona's Conor Jackson drove in three runs with three hits, including his eighth homer.

## Giants 2, Cubs 1

At San Francisco, Matt Cain struck out 10 in eight shutout innings, third baseman Jose Castillo made a great diving stop in the eighth to save a hit and San Francisco beat Chicago.

Fred Lewis stole home, scored both runs and had the first two hits against Chicago starter Jason Marquis (6-5) to help Cain's winning cause. The Giants went ahead 1-0 in the first when Lewis scored on a double steal in which Randy Winn stole second, and San Francisco bounced back to end a three-game home losing streak after the Cubs took the series opener 9-2 on Monday night.



Tampa Bay Rays pitcher Matt Garza delivers to the Boston Red Sox during the first inning of a baseball game on Tuesday, July 1, 2008 in St. Petersburg, Fla.

season. They are 4-0 in Atlanta.

Chipper Jones was 1-for-3 with a double and two walks in his return after missing eight straight starts with a strained right quadriceps. Mark Kotsay came off the disabled list after missing 33 games since May 26 with a lower back strain. He went 0-for-4.

Philadelphia scored five runs

starting pitcher to win his big league debut. Balester became the first franchise starter to win his debut since Dan Smith on June 8, 1999, when the club was still in Montreal.

Belliard's second career grand slam in the sixth put the Nationals ahead 6-1, improving Washington's record to 2-9 this season against Florida. He also

# Bonds' 756th homer ball lands in Hall, finally



**NEW YORK** (AP) — Now branded with an asterisk, the ball Barry Bonds

launched for his record 756th home run nearly a year ago landed Tuesday night in the Hall of Fame. The souvenir arrived in Cooperstown, N.Y., after a strange day of back-and-forth statements between its owner, fashion designer Marc Ecko, and the shrine.

"We are very happy to receive the baseball as a donation, and not as a loan," Hall spokesman Brad Horn said. "We look forward to adding this ball to our permanent collections."

A driver walked up the front

steps of the Hall, handing over the ball and a letter from Ecko saying it was an unconditional donation. Horn said the ball will be displayed after the museum documents it - that process usually takes weeks, rather than months.

Bonds broke Hank Aaron's career homer record on Aug. 7. Yet not since Boston first baseman Doug Mientkiewicz caught the last out of the 2004 World Series had a Hall-bound ball caused so much commotion.

Ecko paid \$752,467 for the prize in an online auction in September. Soon after, he asked fans to vote in an Internet poll on what he should do with the ball.

The winner: Brand it with an

asterisk, to reflect the steroid allegations surrounding Bonds, and give it to the Hall.

The ball indeed was marked, with the six-pronged asterisk dye-cut into the cowhide, from stitch-to-stitch where "Major League Baseball" is printed.

Bonds called Ecko an "idiot" when the designer announced plans to hold the vote. The slugger later said he would boycott the Hall if it displayed the ball with an asterisk.

After months of discussions, the Hall said earlier Tuesday that talks with Ecko had "unfortunately reached an impasse."

"The owner's previous commitment to unconditionally donate the baseball has changed to

a loan. As a result, the Hall of Fame will not be able to accept the baseball," the Hall said.

Ecko later responded.

"I am surprised that the Hall issued a statement that said they would no longer accept the Barry Bonds' 756th home run baseball. We had been in communication with them just this morning and the Hall did not mention that they would change their position and no longer accept the ball," he said.

"Based on the Hall of Fame's previous statements that they would both accept and display the ball, the only open issue we were talking about was the Hall's recent indication of discomfort in displaying it and

addressing the controversy surrounding the record."

Nearly all of the Hall's 35,000-plus artifacts were given on a permanent basis. The Hall does make exceptions, especially when it has nothing else to illustrate a story—Willie Mays loaned the glove he used to make his famous, over-the-shoulder catch in the 1954 World Series.

Bonds donated the batting helmets he wore when he hit his 755th and 756th home runs.

Bonds finished the season with 762 home runs. The San Francisco Giants did not offer him a contract for this year, and he hasn't gotten an offer to play for another team.



# Trench Tech Fan Appreciation Fight Night on June 12

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

## TRENCH TECH

Trench Tech will hold its Fan Appreciation Fight Night on June 12 at the Trench Tech Gym in San Antonio.

According to Trench Tech president Cuki Alvarez, the event will feature six mixed martial arts matches and one kickboxing and one grappling bout as well.

“This is in honor of all our awesome fight fans and soldiers who fight the real war, that we appreciate them and thank them for all the support over the years! We also want to give back to the fans for all their support,” he said.

Alvarez said the first 100 MMA enthusiasts to come to Trench Tech’s Fan Appreciation Fight Night will be let in free of charge, the next 100 fans will pay \$1, and the next 100 fans after will pay \$2 and so on.

Aside from the action-packed



SAIPAN TRIBUNE  
Joe Ngiraibuuch delivers a punch while pinning down Swain Cangco during one of the more recent Trench Tech Rites of Passage events on Saipan.

MMA fights and thrilling kickboxing and grappling bouts, Alvarez also said there also will be a reggae concert featuring local band Burning Bush. He

added that they are also working on having stand-up comedy included in the program.

Doors open for Trench Tech’s Fan Appreciation Fight Night at

exactly 5pm.  
“Come and enjoy a night of MMA action, reggae music, and a good time!” he said.

Alvarez and Trench Tech have also lined up two more events before the close of the year.

Trench Tech’s Rites of Passage 5: Rise of the Warriors is scheduled for Sept. 27, while Trench Warz 9 is slated for Dec. 6.

Alvarez said like previous Rites of Passage events, Rise of the Warriors will again serve as proving grounds for young talent looking to make it to the big show.

“This event caters to the first- or second-time fighter or fighters who have lost and are looking to redeem their performance and try to earn their ‘rites to pass’...onto bigger more prestigious events.”

Tickets will be sold at \$20 for all seating and it will be first-come, first-serve as far as seating arrangements are concerned.

Alvarez, meanwhile, said details of Trench Warz 9—Trench Tech’s final event of 2008—will be forthcoming in the months ahead.

## CNMI-RP

From Page 28

to beat Guam by nine to advance to the finals—Flores’ boys hunkered down to work and had two more home plate-crossings in the fourth to give the CNMI a 7-3 advantage.

The fifth inning saw Jones continue with his superb effort from the mound, as he retired Shane McDonald and Derek Dela Cruz on consecutive strikeouts before inducing Eddie Chaco to fly out to second base.

Needing six more runs to finish off Guam via mercy rule, Jones started things off with a single. Iguel advanced Jones to second when he took four balls from relief pitcher Kagan Rabago.

Jones then darted toward

home shortly thereafter to make it 8-3.

Taitano and Pangelinan later loaded the bases and Iguel scored when Guam’s fifth pitcher, Bryan Delgado, walked Nokki Saralu.

Delgado also delivered walks to David Camacho and Ryan Lisua that allowed two more runners to score. In between that, John Paul Lizama’s sacrifice fly brought in Saralu and advanced Camacho to third.

With only a single separating the CNMI from victory, Guam gift-wrapped it when Delgado threw a wild pitch allowing Camacho to score run No. 13 and the CNMI dugout immediately exploded in celebration with the improbable victory.

Flores said after the game that Guam scoring two more runs in the fourth actually sparked his

team to pile up the runs, which led them to the win.

“Our first scenario was to hold them to zero. We got through two innings with that and they scored one in the third, but we were still OK. They scored two more and that put us in a situation where we needed to beat them by nine or more runs,” he said.

Flores also gave Jones a lot of credit for the victory, adding that the starting pitcher didn’t allow himself to be overcome by pressure despite the CNMI’s long odds entering the game against Guam.

He said even when Guam scored two runs in the fourth, Jones remained as cool as a cucumber.

“It was just one bad pitch. He’s the ace so you had to have faith in him.”

Flores also gave kudos to the

rest of his players who showed what teamwork was all about.

“Everybody came through for us today. Everybody was patient out there on the plate. It’s just one team, one heart. In our loss in the first game, we were a little shaky but I know my boys would rebound. Tomorrow we will defend our title as 2007 Asia-Pacific Big League Regional champions. Everybody just did their job, whether they’re on the bench cheering or on the field playing.”

The Senior League finals between the CNMI and the Philippines is set at 11am today, following the 9am finals between the two teams’ Junior squads.

The championship game of the Big League between the CNMI and the Philippines, meanwhile, is scheduled at 3pm, also at the Oleai Sports Complex.

The Seniors, meanwhile, got a free ride to the title game when the CNMI walloped Guam, 13-3, yesterday. All three teams actually finished with identical 1-1 win-loss records, but the Philippines and the CNMI advanced to the finals because they allowed the least runs.

In the Big League, the Philippines finished with a 1-1 mark behind 2-0 CNMI. Guam was winless in two games in the division.

Hong Kong (1-3) and Indonesia (0-3) also took part in the Junior League of the 2008 Asia-Pacific Regional Little League Tournament.

Bar. He is set to play in the L.A. County 53rd Len Kennett Junior Championship this morning.

Last year, Macaranas missed the final two rounds of the 2007 Callaway Junior Golf Tournament after scoring a 16-over par 74 in the first round and a 12-over par 70 in the second round. He missed the cut by 15 strokes.

## MACARANAS

From Page 28

R.J. recently took part in the O’Donnell Junior Championship in Palm Springs, the Junior World Qualifier in Alhambra, and the L.A. County Diamond Bar Championship in Diamond

play after that. We need to focus on winning those final games so that we can bring honor to our country,” she said.

Tanco-Ong also took the opportunity to thank the Filipino community on Saipan who have come down in droves to the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field to cheer for their *kabayans*.

“It’s so nice. They’re really so loud and supportive and that’s why when we face the CNMI tomorrow with all the Filipinos here, it would seem like we are the home team. It’s like we have a built-in home field advantage every single time we play here,” she said.

Tanco-Ong added that only on Saipan does the Philippines have an advantage in crowd support.

## A FIRST

From Page 28

manager of the 2007 Philippine Junior All-Stars that advanced to World Series title game before losing to Pearly City, Hawaii, said while the Philippines is happy to reach all three finals of the regional tournament, in no way are they satisfied.

“It’s very critical that we win the championship games but it’s also nice that all three teams are in the finals. That in itself is a first.

“These last three games in the championship are important. We now have to focus on winning for all three teams. The Juniors play first, the Seniors play next, and then the Big League

## HEO

From Page 28

I am better off playing doubles for now. I wish I hadn’t sprained my ankle. But everything’s fine.

If I win my doubles today, I will be getting more points so hopefully I’ll win.”

The Air Pacific South Pacific Open Junior Championships 2008 began last Monday, June 30, and runs until this Saturday, July 5.

# NMA grateful for Coca-Cola, Foremost Championships donations

The Northern Marianas Athletics expressed its gratitude to Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia) Inc. and Foremost Foods Saipan for their generous donation to the just-concluded 2008 Oceania Championships, saying it contributed a lot to the success of the major regional sports event.

“The donation from Coca-Cola really helped,” Robin Sapong Eugenio, NMA secretary general said.

“Without the support of Coca-Cola



and Foremost, we probably could not have pulled it off,” Sapong said, adding that the company has consistently been providing donations to NMA events for the past five years.

Johnnie Fong, managing director of Coca-Cola and Foremost on Saipan and Guam, said the companies are supportive of sporting events as these are in harmony with the active and healthy lifestyle that Coke and Foremost promote.

According to Rusty M. Loyola, operations manager for Coke and Foremost, a total of 30 cases of Dasani and Crystal Clear bottled drinking water and 24 cases of Pow-

erade Orange were donated to NMA for the event. He said three Iceman coolers and two Dasani water jugs were also lent to the sports organization.

“The donation was more than enough to make sure that the athletes were able to hydrate themselves especially during the competition,” Eugenio said.

It was the first time that Saipan hosted the Oceania Under 18 and Open Area Cham-

pionship and the Oceania Grand

Prix Series, a major regional sports event that brought together approximately 300 athletes from American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Guam, Kiribati, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Tahiti, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu, among others.

The event was held from June 21 to 28.

NMA is the fastest growing and most progressive sporting organization in the Northern Mariana Islands with more than 15 years of experience in organizing and hosting events in the CNMI, according to Sapong. (PR)

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### MLB STANDINGS

#### AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	51	32	.614	—
Boston	50	36	.581	2 1/2
New York	44	40	.524	7 1/2
Baltimore	42	40	.512	8 1/2
Toronto	41	44	.482	11

#### Central Division

Chicago	48	35	.578	—
Minnesota	46	38	.548	2 1/2
Detroit	42	41	.506	6
Kansas City	38	46	.452	10 1/2
Cleveland	37	47	.440	11 1/2

#### West Division

Los Angeles	50	34	.595	—
Oakland	45	38	.542	4 1/2
Texas	44	41	.518	6 1/2
Seattle	32	51	.386	17 1/2

### NATIONAL LEAGUE

#### East Division

Philadelphia	45	39	.536	—
Florida	43	40	.518	1 1/2
New York	41	42	.494	3 1/2
Atlanta	40	44	.476	5
Washington	34	51	.400	11 1/2

#### Central Division

Chicago	50	34	.595	—
St. Louis	48	37	.565	2 1/2
Milwaukee	45	38	.542	4 1/2
Houston	40	44	.476	10
Pittsburgh	39	44	.470	10 1/2
Cincinnati	39	46	.459	11 1/2

#### West Division

Arizona	42	42	.500	—
Los Angeles	39	44	.470	2 1/2
San Francisco	37	47	.440	5
Colorado	33	51	.393	9
San Diego	33	52	.388	9 1/2

### Yesterday's Games

Texas 3, N.Y. Yankees 2  
Baltimore 7, Kansas City 5  
Tampa Bay 3, Boston 1  
Minnesota 6, Detroit 4  
Chicago White Sox 3, Cleveland 2, 10 innings  
L.A. Angels 5, Oakland 3  
Seattle 7, Toronto 6  
Philadelphia 8, Atlanta 3  
Washington 9, Florida 6  
Pittsburgh 6, Cincinnati 5, 11 innings  
L.A. Dodgers 7, Houston 6, 11 innings  
N.Y. Mets 7, St. Louis 4  
Colorado 4, San Diego 0  
Milwaukee 8, Arizona 6  
San Francisco 2, Chicago Cubs 1

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### LOCAL SCORES

#### Asia-Pacific Little League Standings

##### Big League

CNMI	2	0
Philippines	1	1
Guam	0	2

##### Senior League

CNMI	1	1
Philippines	1	1
Guam	1	1

##### Junior League

Philippines	4	0
CNMI	3	1
Guam	1	2
Hong Kong	1	3
Indonesia	0	3

#### Championship Schedule July 3

9am	CNMI vs. RP	Juniors
11am	CNMI vs. RP	Seniors
1pm	CNMI vs. RP	Big League
3pm	Make-up Game	Open



# 2008 Asia-Pacific Regional Little League Tournament



Photos BY MARK RABAGO

Far left, Philippine Junior All-Star Taiki Ishibashi is tagged out at second base in their 2008 Asia-Pacific Regional Little League Tournament game against Guam last Sunday at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Left, CNMI Senior All-Star Oferio Taitano gets a lead from second base against Guam pitcher Kagan Rabago in their game yesterday.

Right, Robert Staa of Indonesia goes up to bat against CNMI Junior All-Star pitcher Harry Nakamura in their 2008 Asia-Pacific Regional Little League Tournament game last Sunday. Catching for the CNMI is Anthony Salas.



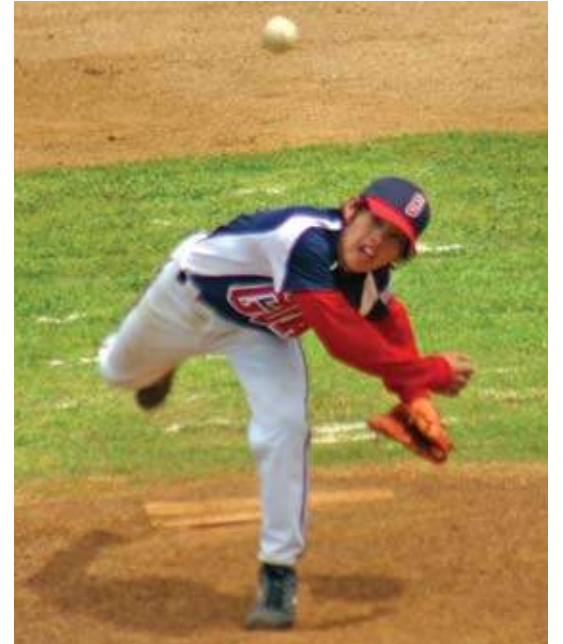
Far right, Hong Kong Junior All-Star Max Kim goes up to bat against CNMI relief pitcher Harry Nakamura in the seventh inning of their game Wednesday.



Philippine Junior All-Stars starting pitcher Charles Jason Catangui throws from the mound in their game against Guam last Sunday.



Guam Junior All-Star Byron Quenga and CNMI first baseman Richard Dela Cruz waits for action to start in their game last Monday.



Guam Junior All-Star Jermaine Tenorio throws to the plate against the CNMI in their game Monday.



Guam Senior All-Star Arick Goque reads his catcher's signals during their game against the Philippines last Sunday.



Indonesia Junior All-Star pitcher Muhammad Defrin warms up on the mound during their game against the CNMI Sunday.



CNMI Junior All-Star pitcher Lamarc Iguel controlled both sides of the plate in leading the CNMI to its second win in as many starts following an 8-3 win over Guam last Tuesday.





## Trench Tech Fan Appreciation Fight Night on June 12

Trench Tech will hold its Fan Appreciation Fight Night on June 12 at the Trench Tech Gym in San Antonio.

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

## Williams sisters closing in on Wimbledon final

One prematch glance Tuesday at the data displayed on those fancy, new digital scoreboards at staid, old Wimbledon provided a pretty persuasive case for why Venus Williams might be considered the woman to beat.



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## A first for RP Little League

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Head of delegation Catherine Tanco-Ong said the Philippines advancing to the finals of all three divisions of the 2008 Asia-Pacific Regional Little League Tournament is a historic moment for the country's Little League program.



"This is the first time ever that this has happened. For Philippine baseball this is huge. It's the first time. We hardly ever win and now we send three teams and all are playing in the championship game," she said just as the CNMI ousted Guam in the Senior League yesterday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Tanco-Ong, who served as  
**See A FIRST on Page 26**

# CNMI-RP also in Sr. League finals

By MARK RABAGO  
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The CNMI and the Philippines will dispute the championships of all three divisions of the 2008 Asia-Pacific Regional Little League Tournament after the hosts routed Guam in the Senior League yesterday at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

The CNMI needed to either hold the U.S. territory to one run and win or outscore them by nine to advance to the championship game.

The boys of manager Derran Flores did more than that, chasing four of Guam's pitchers from the mound before exploding for six runs in the bottom of the fifth to score a 13-3 mercy rule-shortened victory against their archrivals from the south.

The CNMI, Guam, and the Philippines finished tied with identical 1-1 win-loss marks. But the hosts and the Philippines advanced by virtue of less runs scored against them in the tournament.

The Philippines yielded 13 runs following their 2-6 loss to Guam and 11-7 win against the CNMI. The CNMI, meanwhile, gave up 14 runs after rebounding from their loss against the Philippines with a 10-run smack-down of Guam, which in the end allowed 15 total runs.

Despite facing long odds, Flores and his coaches—Roy Celis and Jon Tenorio—had the CNMI

Senior All-Stars pumped up and primed before the game.

It also helped that the CNMI had ever-reliable starting pitcher Joshua Jones on the No. 1 spot.

Jones dominated Guam's hitters right from the get-go as he retired the top of the order in 1-2-3 fashion in the first.

Oferio Taitano then got the CNMI on the board when he crossed home plate on a throwing error.

The CNMI tucked in three more runs in the second inning when Ryan Lisua, Anthony Tenorio, and Jones himself touched home plate to give them a 4-0 lead.

Guam retaliated with a run in the third, courtesy of starting pitcher Shane Tenorio. The ace, however, was yanked from the mound the very next inning when Juan Iguel and John Pangelinan scored on consecutive errors to make it 5-1.

Calvert Alokoa and former Saipan Little Leaguer Donovan George momentarily stopped the CNMI's momentum when they scored runs No. 2 and No. 3 in the fourth inning, throwing option No. 1 out the window for the hosts.

However, instead of giving up—as they now needed

**See A CNMI-RP on Page 26**

Joshua Jones pitched a complete game to lead the CNMI Senior All-Stars to a 13-3 thrashing of Guam in their 2008 Asia-Pacific Regional Little League Tournament game yesterday at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.



## Heo now ranked 1,425 in juniors



INTERNATIONAL TENNIS FEDERATION  
Ji Hoon Heo, seen here in file photo, lost his second round singles match in the Air Pacific South Pacific Open Junior Championships 2008 last Monday in Lautoka, Fiji.

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



The good news: Ji Hoon Heo is now ranked 1,425 in the International Tennis Federation junior rankings.

The bad news: The CNMI wunderkind is still being bothered by an ankle injury he sustained in a tournament in New Caledonia last week.

It was the primary reason he lost his second round singles

rankings.

Heo blamed the loss on the injury.

"I'm still injured in my ankle and I can't play properly but I played anyways. I lost in the second round against Ari Davis in three sets. I could have beaten him so easily but my ankle couldn't support me very well in the second and third sets."

For now, Heo would have to satisfy himself with the thought that he now has an ITF ranking and can now play in more ITF tournaments and could get more consideration in the main draw.

While he lost in singles, Heo is still pretty much alive in the doubles division, where he and partner William O'Connor of Fiji advanced to the second round with a 6-2, 7-5 victory over the Kiwi pair of Davis and Niehana Randall.

Heo and O'Connell's next assignment will be a third round match against another New Zealand tandem, Sam Barr and Stuart Robertson. Barr and Robertson come into the match ranked 802 and 737, respectively. O'Connell, meanwhile, is listed at No. 1,588 in the ITF junior rankings.

"We will be playing our doubles today (Wednesday) at 3pm. My ankle is not healed up but  
**See HEO on Page 26**

## Macaranas qualifies for US Kids World Championship

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



U.S.-based local golf prodigy R.J. Macaranas made the CNMI proud again by qualifying for the 2008 U.S. Kids World Championship set for July 28 and 29 in Pinehurst, N.C.

Macaranas is the son of Richard and Becky Macaranas of Saipan

According to Richard, his nine-year-old son is excited about playing at Pinehurst, the host of the 2005 U.S. Open Championship.

Richard said that event saw New Zealander Michael Campbell win the National Championship with a score of even par.

He added that the resort also became a part of American golf history when Payne Stewart captured the title in 1999. Stewart's 15-foot putt on the final hole secured his second U.S. Open title and marked one of the most dramatic and memorable moments in U.S. Open history. Pinehurst is also the site of this year's U.S. Amateur.

Aside from qualifying for the 2008 U.S. Kids World Championship, the younger Macaranas also did well on the Golf Channel's Drive, Chip, and Putt.

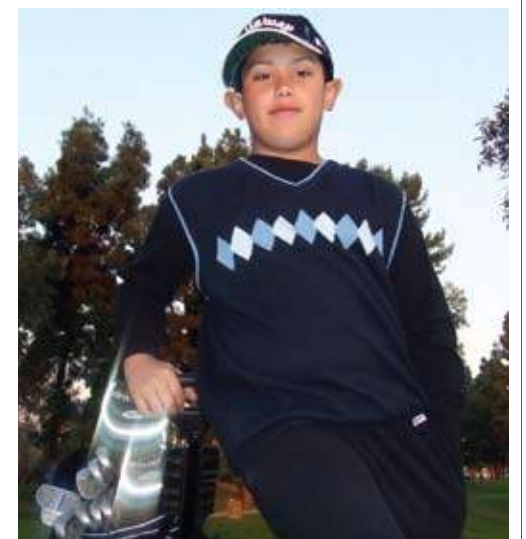
According to Richard, R.J. drove the ball 250 yards and scored the best possible score in putting, earning him two medals for driving and putting.

During Golf Channel's Drive, Chip, and Putt, R.J. said he was a bit conscious of all the attention he was getting.

"When I practice people stare at me, like when I hit high lob shots, or smash balls with my driver. They never believe that I can beat them."

R.J. also admitted that out of the thousands of hours practicing the gentleman's game, his favorite sessions are the ones with his dad playing "9 holes."

"We play '9 holes' on the putting green. We begin by playing a hole three times at different lengths five steps, 10 steps, and 15 steps away. They are par 2s, so the first putt is always for birdie. My average is about even par, and my



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

R.J. Macaranas, seen here in a file photo, qualified for the 2008 U.S. Kids World Championship set for July 28 and 29 in Pinehurst, N.C.

best score is 5-under par.

I'm learning that this game is not as easy as you think. I listen to my dad's instructions, and continue hitting the ball the way I think I'm taught to hit it, but it takes a lot of time to see what's the difference."

**See MACARANAS on Page 26**